



SOCER ACTION

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Top players lock horns as cities collide

Willie Vassallo
(Green Gully)Dez Marton
(St. George)Andrew Zinni
(B.U. Juventus)Joe Watson
(Syd. C. Hakoah)Zdravko Lujic
(Footscray J.U.S.T.)Jim Petikas
(Syd. Olympic)Alan Davidson
(SM-Hellas)Sergio Melita
(Ad. C. Juve)Robert Markovac
(Melb. Croatia)

CHALLENGE!

KAT'S CORNER with PETER KATHOLOS



The NSL race is hotting up and the next three rounds in both Conferences should give us a pointer to the eventual winners.

In the National Conference it's a three-way tussle between Hellas, Croatia and Heidelberg-Alexander.

Juventus, Makedonia, Brisbane City and Footscray J.U.S.T. are, I suppose, still in the firing line, but I wouldn't give any of them a chance.

In the Australian Conference, it's a five way battle between Sydney City, Hakoah, APIA, Sydney Olympic, Melita Eagles, and Marconi.

Although many experts say that Hakoah already has the title sewn up, I would disagree. There are still a lot of vital games coming up — games that can change the order of the top five dramatically.

But forget about the other clubs. Penrith, Blacktown, Canberra and St. George — the nearest to the top five — haven't got a hope.

* This week's inter-conference challenge round contains some games that may make or break the championship aspirations of some teams.

In Melbourne, at Olympic Park, my club, Olympic, will take on Melbourne Croatia, which beat us last time we met.

At Middle Park, South Melbourne Hellas again has the home ground advantage against Sydney Hakoah, as it did last time when the game ended in a scoreless draw.

These two games will feature no less than 16 players who took part in the recent international series. At first, the two games were to be played as a double-header, but apparently Hellas objected to the plan. A pity, really, because it would have given soccer fans a smorgasbord of soccer delights.

Still, both games should prove to be great drawcards, and fireworks can be expected. I know that the Hellas sup-

ports, for instance, can't wait for this match, as they haven't forgotten the Alan Davidson incident. You'll remember, of course, that Davidson swallowed his tongue and almost died after being flattened behind play.

Heidelberg-Alexander and APIA will provide a top-class thriller at the Olympic Village ground, and high-flying Marconi whose forwards are scoring with machine-gun regularity, take on Juventus at home, after having thrashed reigning NSL champion St. George Budapest.

With David Lowe, Peter Sharne, Craig Mason, Tony Henderson and especially Mark Jankovic in top form, I favor Marconi to move further up the ladder as a result of a victory over the Victorians.

This match will be part of a double-header at Marconi Oval. The first match is between Sydney Croatia and Adelaide City Juventus — and a bumper crowd is expected to roll up, as Croatia will feature its two new players Vedran Rozic of Hajduk Split and Emil Dragicevic of Dinamo Zagreb.

Ironically, Adelaide Juventus has just lost its Italian guest players, Nello Scarpa and Tomaso Tallerico, who have gone back home. With its reinforcements, Croatia should win this match and as a result inspire new hope that the club will avoid relegation after all.

Remember that the last-placed Sydney club will go down at the end of the season.

Wollongong and Newcastle were in the last two positions at the time of writing, but neither club can be relegated this year, as both have been classified as "development areas."

Ironically, last year's champion, St. George, finds itself in danger of relegation at the moment — particularly should Croatia stage a sudden recovery as a result of Rozic's influence.

Harking back for a moment to Olympic's clash with Melbourne Croatia, I believe that Croatia may have a new player in time for this one. He is Jozo Bogdanovic from the Croatian league in Yugoslavia, and he's supposed to be some player!

Tommy Cumming also is a formidable opponent for his sheer gutsiness, but all the Croatian players will have to be on their toes against us.

Last time, the score was 3-1 to Croatia but in recent weeks, guys like Jim Petikas and Tony Dakos have really come good for Olympic, and I'm determined to score against Croatia this way I did last time.

I've been reading about the abundance of talent at Heidelberg, now that Stuart Stevenson from Scotland has joined the attacking force. With Charlie Yankos leading the defence, Heidelberg should give APIA a tough game — but APIA also has fine players in Arno Bertogna, John Bradley, Peter Tredinnick and Bobby Parkes.

Still, I reckon that Heidelberg's attack looks a bit better, and

and with the home ground advantage, the Victorians might just sneak this one, to put even greater pressure on Hellas.

If the challenge round is vital to the championship aspirants, it's just as important for the teams being threatened by relegation.

One such club is George Cross.

Its opponent at Chaplin Reserve is Wollongong, which like George Cross, is at the bottom of its ladder.

Wollongong can't be relegated from there. George Cross can.

It doesn't make much sense, does it?

In any case, George Cross's players are well aware that this is one game they just have to win. And, quite frankly, I don't reckon they've got much to beat.

If the reports about forwards Bobby Toal, Mick McGorian and Ossie Latif are true, then Wollongong had better watch out. And George Cross's new midfielder, Jeff Faulkner, also is a good player. He had quite a reputation at Croatia, before his retirement.

Green Gully, under new coach Bobby McLachlan, also is threatened by relegation, yet its opponent, Newcastle-Rosebud, can't go down.

These two clash at Adams Oval on Saturday, and it certainly won't be easy for the Victorians.

Continued page 2

Hajduk's Rozic 'best ever to come here'

Sydney Croatia secretary Peter Lukunic describes star import Vedran Rozic as "the best player ever to come and play club soccer in Australia."

"At a conservative estimate, I think that Rozic will add another 1,000 to our gate. We started the season with about 4,000 to 5,000 spectators, but that figure has dropped alarmingly because we haven't been successful. Hopefully, Rozic will reverse that trend," said Lukunic.

Rozic, 28, has a pedigree which prompts Lukunic's optimism. He has played 28 times for the Yugoslav national "A" team, 40 times for the national "B" team, and 10 times for the Olympic team.

He is one of the finest players in Yugoslavia, having made over 700 appearances for Hajduk Split over 12 seasons. He also has captained Hajduk.

"I suggested to our coach Harry Noon, that what you should do play," joked Lukunic.

Rozic probably will play sweeper, the position in which his huge reputation in Yugoslav soccer has been earned.

Sydney Croatia hopes that Rozic will stay in Australia. He arrived last week with his wife and children as a temporary visa player after gaining a free clearance from Hajduk in lieu of his outstanding service to the club.

He is Sydney Croatia's third import this year.

Zejko Jurin arrived three weeks ago. The 24-year-old striker is a former Zagreb player. He scored 22 goals last season for Sibenik, which finished 4th in Second Division.

Emil Dragicevic, 24, arrived two weeks ago. He plays for Dinamo Zagreb and Croatia is likely to use him as a midfielder.

Croatia hopes to keep Jurin and Dragicevic for the rest of the season.

—CRAIG MACKENZIE

Young Melbourne on way back

If former Australian champion Melbourne-Hungaria, currently third in the Victorian First Division, wins promotion to the 1985 Victorian State League, it will be a triumph for coach Mike Lynn and his policy of fielding a young team, composed mainly of local products.

"As long as we don't get carried away with ourselves we can win promotion," said Lynn.

"I think that the young players in the side deserve recognition.

There aren't too many sides getting success with two 21-year-olds and six teenagers in the first team."

The young Melbourne regulars are: Goalkeeper Mario Tatch, 21; defender Alex Szabo, 19; defender Gark Fremin, 18; defender Paris Tzambazis, 17; midfielder George Traichovski, 18; midfielders Costa Theopoldous, 21, and brother Lou, 17; and winger Emile Iepai, 18.

Ricbie Armstrong, a 19-year-old striker, was in the first team until he broke a leg earlier this season. He recently returned to training.

Paddy Bannon, the former Heidelberg Alexander, Croatia and Juventus defender; Denny Ward, the ex-Slavia striker; and captain John Bird add experience to the team.

Bannon also adds his coaching ability.

"I'm delighted to let Paddy get involved in coaching. He takes sessions and often, when we split the squad into two groups, he'll look after one group while I work with the other. He's been a bonus on and off the field," said Lynn.

—CRAIG MACKENZIE

Jeff Faulkner
(George Cross)Charlie Yankos
(H'berg-Alexander)Ray Farrugia
(Melita Eagles)Murray Barnes
(Syd. C. Hakoah)Arno Bertogna
(APIA)

CHALLENGE!

From page one

Rosebud has more talent than most fans give them credit for. Look at players like Ralph Meier (youth international in Mexico last year), Mike Boogaard (a tough custumer if I've ever run into one), Simon Brandt (a nippy, skilful, mobile raider who's no slouch near goal). David Jones (the experienced left flanker from KB United) and former Socceroo Joe Senkalski, and it's as plain as the nose on your face that this team deserves respect!

Gully's Les Carter, Paul Lewis and Bobby McGuinness all have reputations as goalscorers, but they'll certainly have to be at their best at Adams-town Oval.

I mentioned earlier that St George also may be fighting against relegation. Saints' opponent in the challenge round is West Adelaide Hellas, and while Saints could be sure of victory in Sydney, they may find it hard at Hindmarsh Stadium.

On the other hand, guys like Robbie Slater, Mark Barton, Dez Marton, and Andrew Koczka appear to have what it takes to break down a fairly slow West Adelaide defence, to give saints a bit of breathing space.

The Canberra v. Footscray J.U.S.T. clash in Canberra should be a real beauty, for it

will feature some of the most exciting players in the nation.

Zdravko Lujic, for example. He's been in the NSL since 1978, and during all this time, he's been ranked among the most breathtaking wingers in the game. On a good day he can rip apart any defence with his skillful raids down the left. For many years his good wing play was wasted because J.U.S.T. lacked a finisher in the middle, but that problem has been rectified by Dragan Lacmanovic, the former Red Star striker.

And what about goalkeeper Dennis Boland? Together with Olympic's Gary Meier, he's the longest-serving 'keeper in the NSL, and probably the most spectacular.

As for Canberra, well, you can't go past Frank Farina up front, and Tony Franken in goal. Boland may be among the elite, but Franken is even better.

To pick the winner here, you may as well toss a coin. I'll go for J.U.S.T. because the Victorians are more experienced.

Melita Eagles have to keep winning to stay in the top five of the Australian Conference. They've had a lot of injury problems, but if all players are available, they certainly should beat disappointing Brisbane City in Brisbane.

Brisbane Lions have taken over from City as the more entertaining of the two Queensland clubs, and I'd give Lions a chance of causing an upset against Blacktown in Sydney, despite the presence of Phil O'Connor and Clive Eaton in Blacktown's attack.

Roddy Vasquez, the Stewart brothers, Steve Jackson, Calvin Daunt, Jim McDonagh and Ray Junna have a lot more overall talent than they're given credit for by fans south of Brisbane — and it's in games like this that these players are keen to prove everyone wrong.

Makedonia has had a shocking run recently, what with the sacking of Peter Ollertron, and the disappointing form of Gary Cole, Graham Heys, and even Zarko Odzakov who hasn't lived up to his best form. Makedonia can change all that though, when they meet Penrith — one of the league's least glamorous clubs — at Connor Reserve on Sunday.

Penrith has a powerful defender in Dave McIntosh and a very creative midfielder in Ian Wotherspoon. Ian Hunter is back, causing opposing defences a few problems, and I'm sure Penrith will adopt a defensive stance in Melbourne.

All in all, it should be a hell of a round.

And who says challenge rounds aren't a good idea?

Brilliant under 16s

Last week the Sydney Olympic committee appointed several players as advisers and talent scouts for our junior teams.

So come Saturday, I decided to take up my new post with the Olympic under 16s, and give away my traditional Saturday afternoon social game.

I went out to have a look at the boys, who are undefeated so far, and take it from me — they're in a class of their own!

They played typical European football which is a delight to watch. Their opponents, Sutherland, crossed the half line only half a dozen times, and Olympic won 2-0 as well as hitting the post three times.

Their skill and technique are outstanding, both individually and as a unit, so the club can look forward to a new crop of exciting senior players in a couple of years' time.

They're coached, by the way, by the father of Greg Ankudinoff, who has retired as a player, and all except one of them is Greek. The odd man out is Argentinian.

Hakoah hails Watson and Barnes

Sydney Hakoah the most successful team in the NSL, has embarked on a novel program to reward two of its longest-serving players.

Where most football clubs hold a testimonial match, Sydney Hakoah has decided to arrange a series of functions throughout the remainder of the year to get maximum financial return.

The two players are former Australian captain Murray Barnes and 1983 Australian Player of the Year Joe Watson.

Barnes began his career with Hakoah Juniors and has been with the club 14 years. He has filled the positions of striker, midfielder and stopper but gained his prominence for powerful performances in the attacking midfield role.

He is a graduate in marine science and was captain of the Australian team which was eliminated from the 1982 World Cup Oceania Qualifying rounds.

Watson originally played with Forfar Athletic in Scotland and was an apprentice with Nottingham Forest before migrating to Australia 11 years ago.

He signed with the club as a winger in 1972 and quickly established a reputation for his elusive skill and speed and his accuracy in crossing from wing.

Watson has played more than 300 games with Hakoah and was given full recognition for his talents last year with his selection to play for Australia against England.

He was also chosen in the Australian team which successfully defended the Merlion Cup in Singapore last December and played an important role in the Soccerco line-up which shocked the touring overseas teams during May and June this year.

He first played for Australia under Rudy Gutendorf.

Barnes and Watson have been two of the members consistently chosen in the Hakoah team which has won three of the past four NSL championships and which is currently on top of the Australian Conference.

Under 13 titles at Altona

The Northern NSW squad for the Australian under 13 championships to be held at Altona Soccer Club, Vic. from August 25 to September 1:

Shane BLOCK, Stuart CHRISTIE, Brett DAY, David FOGGELL, Brett HAWGOOD, Reg Hayes, Martin HORROCKS, Chris JONAS, Craig JONES, Bob KOCH, Mike McCARTHY, Jamie McDougall, Vic MATT, Jeremy RICHARDSON, Scott WELLS, Mark WINSPEAR.

U / 13 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS — DRAWN

Sunday: WA v N. NSW. 10.00 a.m., QLD v N.S.W. 11.30 a.m., VIC v A.C.T. 1.00 p.m., S.A. v N.T. 2.30 p.m.

Monday: N.S.W. v A.C.T. 10.00 a.m., N. N.S.W. v VIC 11.30 a.m., A.M. v N.T. 1.00 p.m., QLD v S.A. 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday: S.A. v VIC 10.00 a.m., WA v N.S.W. 11.30 a.m., QLD v A.C.T. 1.00 p.m., N. N.S.W. v N.T. 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday: A.C.T. v N.T. 10.00 a.m., S.A. v N. N.S.W. 11.30 a.m., QLD v S.A. 1.00 p.m., VIC v N.S.W. 2.30 p.m.

Thursday: N. N.S.W. v QLD 10.00 a.m., N.T. v VIC 11.30 a.m., N.S.W. v S.A. 1.00 p.m., W.A. v A.C.T. 2.30 p.m.

Friday: W.A. v VIC 10.00 a.m., A.C.T. v S.A. 11.30 a.m., N.T. v QLD 1.00 p.m., N.S.W. v N.S.W. 2.30 p.m.

Saturday: N.T. v N.S.W. 10.00 a.m., W.A. v S.A. 11.30 a.m., A.C.T. v N.S.W. 1.00 p.m., VIC v QLD 2.30 p.m.

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NETWORK 0-28
Bringing the world back home

Marconi's Mason confronted Liam Brady

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Craig Mason was 12 years old. He was about to play his first schoolboy trial game with Arsenal.

He was rooming with another Arsenal hopeful. Mason describes his roommate as 'a wimpy, Irish kid' and he was praying that they would line-up against each other in the big match the next day.

"I got onto the pitch and there was this little Irish kid playing against me. Great. This'll do me fine," said Mason.

"The Irish kid gets the ball and runs at me. He drops his shoulder one way, then the other. I've moved in about three different directions and he's ambled past me with the ball at his feet."

Mason didn't make it at Arsenal. The name of the

scrappy Irish kid was Liam Brady.

But Mason isn't the type of person to strut about saying he once played against Brady.

"You get players coming over here saying they did this and did that back home. I'm not interested in that. I'm only interested in what they can do on the park," said the 27-year-old Marconi midfielder.

"If I were a First Division player I'd be back in England now," playing at that level."

That's not a put down. Mason is a realist and when it comes to confidence, he's got his share. He reckons that Sydney City Hakoah isn't the champion, certainty everyone seems to think.

"They can be overhauled and Marconi is the team that can do it. We've lost only one game in my time at Marconi. It's so competitive, now that the squad is almost at full strength."

"We do these players profiles there and I'm sometimes too embarrassed to fill in my sheet. You know the sort of thing I'm talking about, like what's your biggest thrill in soccer and that sort of thing. Almost all the other players in the squad are senior or youth internationals. Some of them have played in front of 100,000 people. Even though there's bags of young talent at Marconi, in some ways these kids are more experienced than me."

Marconi snapped up Mason early this season when Newcastle KB United folded and was replaced in the National Conference by Newcastle Rosebud. Marconi hasn't paid a transfer fee for Mason yet, as the AST still has to resolve whether or not he was a free player at the time. Mason claims he still is owed money by Newcastle United.

Marconi beat Heidelberg Alexander and Bris-

bane Lions in the race to sign him.

Mason was born in Sheffield in England. He left Arsenal when he was 16. His senior clubs in England included Boston and Workshop in the Northern League and Briggton in the Midlands League. He was at Briggton for three years and played alongside Kenny Boden. Mason and Boden were brought to Newcastle United for the start of the 1978 NSL season by Alan Vast.

"In the early years it was all new. It was a big deal in Newcastle and the crowds were great but my most enjoyable year there was last year. Even though we weren't the crowds we had our most successful season in the NSL."

"You can put a lot of that down to our coach Kenny Kaiser. Kenny's a great guy and a good coach. He's got a tremendous understanding of the players and knows how

to get the best out of them.

"And in adverse conditions too. You know, we used to train on about 12 different pitches throughout the season. We'd just go wherever we could use a ground. I remember waiting for a group of seven-year-olds to clear the pitch before we could use it on one occasion and we used to pitch with goalposts on it only once in our pre-season training for this year.

"It was a joke really, but Kenny turned that situation around to our benefit. We used to look at the facilities the Sydney clubs had and say to ourselves: Let's go out there and show these Sydney players a thing or two, because we're every bit as good as them."

Nevertheless, Mason thinks that most of the best players in Australian soccer are playing in Sydney.

"Take a look at the results of most of these inter-conference games

this year. I think that says it all."

And he likes the idea of putting Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions into the Australian Conference next year.

"Yes, I think it's a good idea. We usually beat the Brisbane teams."

Mason is single, with no thoughts of marriage right now. He's concentrating on setting himself up as a haulage contractor and he's likely to be in Sydney for quite a while. He has a two-year contract with Marconi.

"We've verbally agreed to a maximum transfer fee if I want to move at the end of my contract."

What's that old saying about verbal contracts not being worthy the paper they're written on?

Mason watched every Socceroo match in Sydney in the recent World Series. He feels that the high standard of play shown by the Socceroos reflects his view that the standard of the NSL is as good as it ever was.

"I thought that the Socceroos were tremendous. When these players play club football some of them stand out but most of them fit into the overall NSL standards. That says a lot for the NSL."

Les Murray
PUSKAS ON 0/28

Channel 0 has acquired a magnificent, two-hour documentary entitled 'The Golden Team' about the legendary Hungarian team of Puskas and Co of the 1950's.

"It is a great film — one all soccer lovers can watch," said Channel 0's soccer presenter, Les Murray.

The film has now been subtitled in English and will be shown towards the end of the season.

Murray was speaking at a Canberra Arrows VIP club dinner.

He said it was his understanding that soccer would continue to get prime television time slots like the marvellous 7.30 pm Sunday spot now allocated to National League games.

"0-28 will not be backing out of its soccer commitments," Murray said.

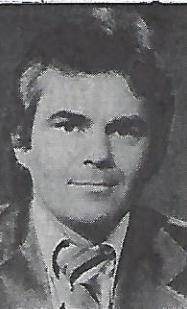
Murray said Channel 0 would extend to Adelaide, Brisbane, Newcastle and Wollongong on July 1, 1985.

Screening later — probably September or October — it would extend to Perth and Hobart.

"These are definite arrangements," said Murray.

Canberra president Charlie Perkins surprised everyone when he unwrapped not just a famous Juventus jersey — but the jersey worn by Paolo Rossi. He presented the jersey to the president of the Downer Olympic Club, Andrew Stramarcos.

— PETER WINSOR



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SOUTH



Youth leagues

VICTORIAN YOUTH LEAGUE:
Knox City 1, Nunawading 1, B.U. Juventus 0, Green Gully 3, Preston 0, Moreland 1, Footscray 1, Melbourne 1, Frankston Pines 0, Sun-George Cross 0, Melb Crostia 1.

This week's games, all on Sunday:

Melbourne Crostia v Nunawading City, Heidehardt 3, Frankston Pines, Preston, Moreland v Brunswick Juventus, Sunshine-George Cross v Knox City, Morell Falcons v Footscray JU, Frankston Pines v Frankston.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE:
AIS 3, Newcastle 1, Canberra 1, Crostia 0, Leichhardt 3, Blacktown 0, Marconi 4, Canberra 2, Melita Eagles 2, St George 0, Sydney City 7, Olympia 4, AIS 3, St. Kilda 1, Victoria 1, Penrith 2, St. Georges: Leichhardt 21; AIS 20; Melita Eagles 20; Canberra 18; St. George 18; Newcastle 16; Blacktown 16; Sydney City 15; Marconi 14; Olympic 13; Penrith 10; Crostia 8; Wollongong 7.

VSF Travel top scorers

The VSF Travel Club, in conjunction with Ametco Travel, is sponsoring our 1984 National Conference Top Scorer award.

The winner receives a trip to Europe, flying Thai International.

Leaders:
11 — Brown (SMH)
9 — Winn (Heid)
8 — Patterson (Heid), Konstandopoulos (WA)
6 — Paul Lewis (GG), Egan (SMH), Sweeney (BJ), Brogan (M. Cro), Daunt, Cairney (Lions).

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AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

ST GEORGE BUDAPEST 1 (Ratcliffe 48th) MELITA EAGLES 1 (Wilson 92nd) at St George Stadium. Crowd 1723. Ratings by Alex Vesic.

ST GEORGE: Young 8, Skeen 6, M. O'Shea 7, Ratcliffe 7, J. O'Shea 8, Riedy 6, Barton 7, Stone 7, Slater 6, Koczka 7, Batten 6, (Petkovski 71st), Coach: Frank Arok.

MELITA EAGLES: Hummel 7, McAusland 5, Wilson 8, McGinn 7, H. Tredinnick 7, Allan 5 (Androcopoulos 60th), Jamieson 6, Davies 6, Laing 5, McKie 7, Coach: Raul Blanco.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Young (SG), 5. Wilson (ME), 4. J. O'Shea (SG), 3. Tredinnick (ME), 2. Ratcliffe (SG), 1. McGinn (ME).

WOLLONGONG 0 PENRITH 2 (Cotton, Jackson) at Wollongong Showground. Ratings by Alex Vesic:

WOLLONGONG: Tilsed 7 — Green 6, Willis 6, Vlietstra 7, Dickson 6, Fleming 6 — Hristov 6 (Fontana 63rd), Gaffney 7, Kerr 6 — Bundalo 6, Kotamanidis 6, Coach: Arnold Aiston.

PENRITH: Gibson 7 — Brogan 6, Daley 7, McIntosh 8, Cross 6 — Wotherspoon 7, Campbell 7, Hale 6 — Hunter 7, Cotton 9, Jackson 8, Coach: Willie Wallace.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Cotton (P), 5. McIntosh (P), 4. Tilsed (W), 3. Hunter (P), 2. Vlietstra (W), 1. Gaffney (W).

CANBERRA 0 MARCONI 2 (Lowe, 31st, Sharpe 72nd) at National Sports Centre. Crowd 960. Ratings Peter Windsor:

CANBERRA: Franken 8, Ontong 7, Jones 7, Redmond 7, Mihalidis 7 (Hogg 72nd), Sermanni 8, Bryant 8, Brockbank 8; Reis 7 (Lamond 81st), Farina 7, Perinovic 8, Coach: Doug Collins.

MARCONI: James 9, Carter 7, Spanos 7 (Driene 45th), 7, Calderon 8, Henderson 8, McCulloch 8, Mason 7, Jankovic 7, Sharpe 7, Lowe 7, Brown 7, Coach: Les Scheinphil.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. James (M), 5. Sermanni (C), 4. Bryant (C), 3. Henderson (M), 2. Calderon (M), 1. Perinovic (C).

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 4 (Lee 25th, 73rd, Rodrigues 49th, O'Connor 84th) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (Raskopoulos 41st, Patikas 77th, Dakos 88th) at Sydney Athletic Field. Crowd: 1559. Ratings by Peter Scott:

HAKOAH: Pezzana 6 — Rodrigues 9, Cant 7, O'Connor 8, De Marginy 7, Kay 8, Watson 8, Barnes 6, Kosmina 6, Murray 7 (Fletcher 73rd), Coach: Eddie Thomson.

OLYMPIC: Meier 6-Rogers 5, Dakos 6, Cuddy 8, Jennings 7-Patikas 6, Raskopoulos 7, Phillips 7-Koussas 5, Theodorakopoulos 6, Katholos 7 (Kalanitzis 79th), Coach: Manfred Schaefer.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Rodrigues (H), 5. Cuddy (O), 4. O'Connor 3, Kav 2, Watson 1, Cant (All H).

CROATIA 2 (Arnold 29th, Clinch 57th) BRISBANE LIONS 1 (John Stewart 68th) at King Tomislav Park. Ratings by Roger Sherack:

CROATIA: Watson 8 — Woods 8, Rozic 8, Sterrey 8, Tomasich 8, — Clinch 8, Jurin 7, Savor 8 — Rezo 6, Boden 6 (Borges 46th — 7), Rezo 7 (Meades 25th — 7), Coach: Harry Non.

BRISBANE LIONS: Farrow 8 — Jackson 7, Hunter 7, Niven 7, Vasquez 8 — Stewart 7, J. Stewart 7, Cairney 8, McDonagh 7 — Junna 7 (Anderson 66th), Daunt 7, Coach: Gordon Arrowsmith.

Best six for the Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Stewart (SC), 5. Cairney (BL), 4. Clinch (SC), 3. Vasquez (BL), 2. Rozic (SC), 1. Farrow (BL).

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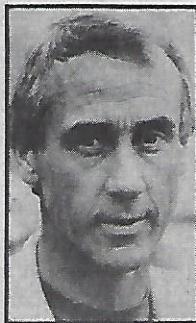
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'Unplayable' — McKendry starts his own language



Egan warms up for Hakoah



Rosebud coach
Willie Gallagher.

SM-Hellas 7 New-Rosebud 0

Scorers: Brown 17th, Egan 21st, 48th, 76th and 85th, Davidson 40th, Blair 59th.
Venue: Middle Park.
Referee: Bernie Upjohn 5
Cardons: Boogaard sent off 76th.

South Melbourne Hellas coach Len McKendry gave a new meaning to the word 'unplayable' after this scintillating performance in which Hellas could have won by a cricket score.

"It was a great overall performance — we were virtually unplayable," McKendry said, obviously inferring that nobody — but nobody — could have stopped Hellas on the day.

"The thing is, we've been



Peter Desira

threatening to do this for months. It's great though that it happened just a week before we play Sydney City. We should get a good crowd and that ought to lift the team even further," McKendry said.

And the coach is not even worried that a touch of overconfidence may creep into the Hellas side after such a one-sided affair.

"What happened out there today shows we are learning to

Man of the Match: CHARLIE EGAN (SM Hellas)

kill sides when we've got them down. It was great to see the players going for the extra goals regardless of what the score was. In the past, Hellas tended to relax once it built a two-goal lead.

"The other good thing that happened today was Charlie Egan's goal-scoring burst ... he has been playing so well without scoring. Today he could've got 12."

Hellas subdued Rosebud's spirited opening with a spectacular goal from Doug Brown. Given half a yard of space he

connected with a Carl Halford cross from the right with an overhead kick which completely deceived Michael Hampton to start a horror day for the keeper.

Egan got the first of his four goals in the 21st minute with a simple header at the far post after Alan Davidson had touched on Brown's corner kick at the near post.

Hampton somehow stopped a shot by John Yzendoorn which deflected off Ken Murphy's leg, then Egan slammed the ball against the crossbar, and was later brought down in the area with referee Upjohn ignoring claims for a penalty.

All that happened before Rosebud got its first real scoring attempt at goal, with Andrew Johns meeting a Joe Senkalski cross from the left and bringing a good save from Peter Laumets, in the 39th minute.

A minute later, Hellas shot to a 3-0 lead with another cross from Halford falling nicely for Davidson for the midfielder to head in.

The floodgates opened after this break. Doug Brown put Halford away down the right, and the midfielder's cross by the byeline was tucked away by Egan at the far post two minutes into the second half.

Brown and Steve Blair had efforts saved before the fifth arrived courtesy of a foul by Andrew Thompson on Egan on the left side just outside the area.

Hampton was nowhere in sight as Blair got up at the back post to head in Brown's free kick.

Mike Boogaard added the next sorry episode for Rosebud, reacting to back-passing by Egan. The report went that Barry Michael would be proud of the referee had an alternative but to send the defender off, especially after Egan had made such a good job of hitting the deck like a diving swan.

Within six minutes of the sending off, Egan recovered enough to add Hellas' sixth, this time after Angie Postecoglou had started the move which again included Brown in the build-up.

Egan then had two shots cleared off the line by Neville Power before getting his fourth and Hellas' seventh in the 85th minute — this time with a simple tap-in after Hampton had failed to hold a shot by Halford from outside the box.

Egan claimed the match ball after the game but paid credit to the side's midfielders for setting up the chances.



Graham Honeyman (left) of WA-Hellas heads towards JUST's goal at Hindmarsh Stadium. At centre is John Panagis and at right Igor Hazabent. Picture by FRANK HOBBES.

and Tom Karic who had the experience and that extra touch of class Hellas didn't. And it was to be the difference.

Karic opened the scoring two minutes into the second half with a brilliantly-executed free kick from the edge of the area.

Karic fired a powerful shot without a win going into its third month.

But Sam Salabasidis' young charges didn't deserve to go down against JUST.

In a fairly even match, Hellas had a bagful of chances, mostly in the first half.

JUST was able to absorb Hellas' relentless running and do its damage on the counter-attack.

JUST held the edge through Joe Carroll, Suleiman Curovic

pushing into the middle.

The move almost paid off immediately, with Honeyman sending in a well-timed lob which Tim Brown smacked against the far post.

With Hellas enjoying most of the play, JUST extended its lead when Zdravko Lujic deceived the Hellas defence to score.

Hellas continued its assault but found JUST too solid and found just one goal.

Eight minutes from the end Gary McDowell brought down George Konstandopoulos and referee Browning gave the penalty.

Dennis Boland saved Honeyman's attempt but Browning ordered the kick retaken because Boland had moved (one of those extremely rare occasions a referee bothers to take notice).



Philip Micallef

Wollongong 0 Penrith 2

Venue: Wollongong Showground.
Crowd: Approximately 900
Referee: Rampley 9.

Wollongong is prepared for a huge crisis in the coming weeks — but not because of this loss to Penrith.

Wolves officials are concerned with a more serious matter.

Wollongong, which has only just managed to overcome a financial crisis which hit the club last year, has been dealt a body blow by the NSL's draw for 1984.

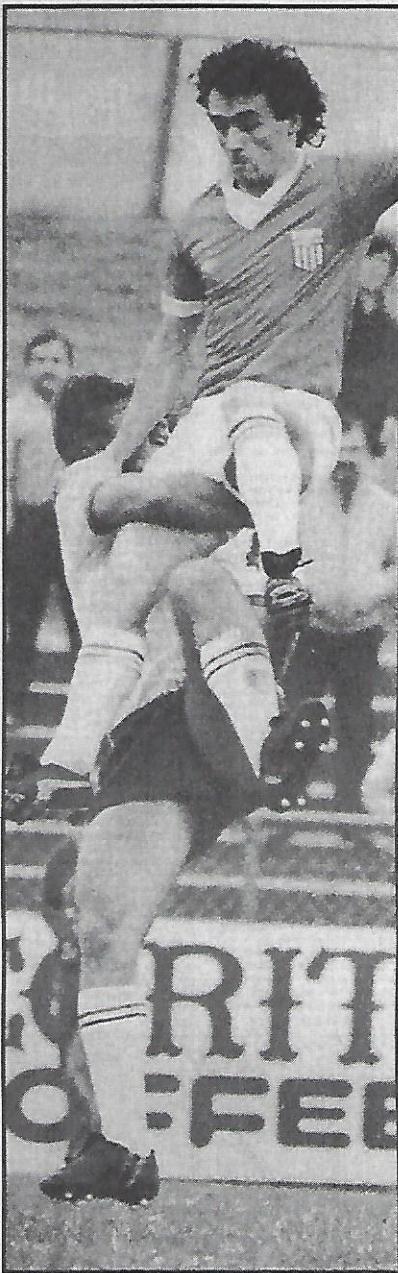
Wollongong's match against Penrith was in fact the club's last home game until September 9.

Due to an amazing set of circumstances, Wollongong will play its next match in Wollongong in the weeks time.

On Sunday the Wolves travel to Melbourne to meet George Cross in the first of their six away matches on the trot.

Wollongong director, Len Chafer said the club would have no means of earning any money for the next six weeks.

"This is an amazing situation — it is ridiculous."



One way to stop Charlie Egan — grab him by the leg, the way Mike Boogaard does in this picture by LES SHORROCK

Wollongong crisis

Man of the Match:

ROY COTTON (Penrith)

sarily a great scorer of goals but not of goals.

After 37 minutes he fired a superb rising shot from just outside the area, which rocketed past goalkeeper Ron Tilsed and in the second half he pinpointed a marvellous cross for Jackson to run in from the blind side of Wollongong's defence and slip the ball past the helpless Tilsed.

These two "magic" moments were the highlights of a mediocre match in which Penrith always looked the more organised side.

Certainly Willie Wallace is doing a good job in Sydney's western suburbs.

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8pm to 12, also Sundays 7pm to 10.30pm

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Wembley May 1985

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for further details

Soper on outer over fine

Five-point lead for Hakoah!

**SC-Hakoah 4
Syd. Olympic 3**

Scorers: Lee (H) 26th, Rodriguez (H) 49th, Lee (H) 73rd, Petkes (O) 77th, O'Connor (H) 84th, Dakos (O) 88th.
Venue: Sydney Athletic Field.
Crowd: 1559.
Referee: Power 9.

Hakoah coach Eddie Thomson was all smiles and full of "praise" for his opposite number, Manfred Schaefer, for not having Marshall Soper in the Olympic line-up for this eagerly-awaited match.

"There is no other player I'd rather see missing from their team against us," Thomson told anyone who was willing to listen.

And why was soccer's enfant terrible conspicuous by his absence?

There were rumors galore about doctors' certificates and the like.

However, the real story is that Soper has had a run-in with his club and coach over non-attendance at training.

A fine was levied on him, followed by an exchange of words.

I have no doubt that the relationship between club and player isn't all it should be. That's why we talk about a transfer next year to hometown Newcastle, but whether the northerners could afford the huge transfer and signing-on fee involved is questionable.

Adding to the turmoil within the Greek club, a group of recalcitrant supporters — numbering a few dozen — thought it less important to support their team than to lobby outside the ground for a boycott of the match. Why? Apparently because they were angry over the last transfer between the two clubs.

Inside, on a dark, rainy, windy day, there was action galore, with yet another of Thomson's "young lions" showing his claws in the top grade.

This time it was Ean Rodriguez at right back, playing an impeccable defensive game — and scoring a spectacular 35-



Peter Scott

**Man of the Match:
EAN RODRIGUES
(SC-Hakoah)**

metre goal just before half time.

It came after a corner kick was not cleared completely, part of a pattern which saw Hakoah score all of its goals from set plays, the other three all coming after free kicks.

Grant Lee capitalised on Joe Watson's and Robbie Cullen's errors, while the boots of Joe Watson and Rodriguez, while Steve O'Connor recalled his Socceroo scoring exploits by heading from home from Watson.

Because of this naivete in the rear, Olympic always was behind the eight ball, constantly trying to play catch-up after failing to break the 0-0 deadlock during 20 minutes of domination at the start.

But shaky defence was not the exclusive preserve of the visitors, as Tony Pezzani was not quite his reliable self in the Hakoah goal.

He failed for a dummy by Nick Theodorakopoulos to allow a long-range lobbed free kick by Peter Raskopoulos to land in his net and get stuck on his line 13 minutes from the end when Graham Jennings made his only telling foray of the match along the left wing and his low cross was allowed to flash across the goalmouth for a hitherto ineffective Jim Patnick to stick it high into the net.

Just before the end Tony Dakos managed to slip through a Hakoah defence already content to write the match off as a win, to narrow the margin once again — but it was much too late to make a difference.

Praise is due to Mike Coady, who was John Kosmina's shadow throughout and did the job effectively.

Unfortunately for his side, this allowed the Socceroo skipper to lead him on a merry chase all over the pitch, creating gaps for Hakoah's other stars to fill.

Two points lost for Olympic, but many valuable lessons that can be put to good use if learnt in time. As for Hakoah, it's a gaping gap of five points at the top of the table again — and more goals scored and less conceded than any other club in the NSL. Can anything be asked of them?

Just a final word of praise for referee Gary Power, not always my favorite whistler,

but doing an impeccable job in a match full of tension before the start and played in conditions which were not conducive to disciplined soccer.

Hakoah angry at NSL

The players, fans, coach and management of Sydney City Hakoah are livid at the NSL's decision to play the Inter-Conference challenge against South Melbourne at Hakoah in Melbourne this weekend.

This is the second such fixture between the two leading clubs of the NSL of the moment, and both were scheduled for the Victorian captain.

Hakoah chairman Sam Fisman bluntly stated that his club was not interested in the anticipated extra revenue, it was more interested in the two premiership points at stake.

His view was fully supported by Eddie Thomson, who is fuming at the fact that these fixtures are being used as fixtures handicapping top sides and give the no-run unfair advantages.

Hakoah's management is also on the offensive about previous decisions by the league and ASF Marketing about matters as diverse as the lack of a fair share of home games, advertising rights at the club's home ground, being forced to play a deferred home fixture away from the club's home ground earlier this year and the singling out of national captain Ean Rodriguez for punishment by the NSL management committee.

The latter refers to last week's citing following a complaint by Melita Eagles for a gesture by Kosmina in the aftermath of a goal scored by him.

Coach Thomson has forcefully pointed out that players offending in an identical manner — one in a match covered by television the same week — were not dealt with, nor were crowds of misbehaving supporters at several grounds this year who harassed and even attempted to assault Hakoah players this year.

"Gestures earn reprimands but spitting at our players, stopping our bench or having bricks smash our locker room window doesn't," he said. "We never indulged in citing other clubs for such misbehaviour. Perhaps the time has come to change that policy."

Coach Thomson has forcefully pointed out that players offending in an identical manner — one in a match covered by television the same week — were not dealt with, nor were crowds of misbehaving supporters at several grounds this year who harassed and even attempted to assault Hakoah players this year.

The old maxim: "they lost but went down fighting" was justly earned by Canberra. For me the biggest disappointment was the mediocrity of the usually brilliant Frank Farina.

After his brilliance during the world cup, Farina has yet to resurrect and find his form in NSL soccer.

Despite the appalling conditions the 960 brave souls who watched were entertained by a fine encounter.

Sheer opportunism gave Marconi its goals against the run of play. A full marks to the big men of their back-line, Tony Henderson and Steve Calderan, and to goalkeeper, Bruce James.

It may have been against the run of play but it counted.



• Marshall Soper — at loggerheads with Olym-

pic



Ken Kontra

Juve's discipline wins the day

**Makedonia 1
AC-Juventus 2**

Scorers: Bolevski 10th, Melita 50th, McMillan own goal 83rd.
Yellow cards: Dobson, Melita, Villani.
Red card: Villani.
Referee: D. Voutsinas 6.

Despite its territorial and, after Charlie Villani's early departure, numerical advantage, Makedonia was unable to defeat and organised and disciplined AC-Juventus.

Its supporters must be wondering how long it will take before the team manages to climb out of the slump and start producing results commensurate with its ability. Makedonia is not playing as



NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

**Man of the Match:
SERGIO MELTA
(AC-Juventus)**

a unit. The effort is there and there are flashes of individual brilliance, but tactically there are many problems for new coach Frank McAleer to rectify.

To turn possession into positive goal chances is one of the major problems, and this can only be achieved if, instead of players trying to solve the problem on their own, they all channel their efforts together in a disciplined fashion.

In midfield, Zarko Odzakov indulged in showing off his dribbling ability, seldom releasing the ball in time thus allowing the opposition to defend in rank. Robbie Dunn ran himself into the ground in the first half and was seldom sighted in the second half. The same applied to Jim Bolevski. After scoring a fine early goal, he practically disappeared after half time.

Without the suspended Claude Lucchesi, Makedonia had nobody up forward to hold the ball or offer himself with his back to the opponent's goal and as a consequence, most of Makedonia's attacks resembled the charge of the light brigade.

Gary Cole just does not fit into Makedonia's current pattern of play. He is not getting the service he requires. On the other hand, he never stopped trying and made good use of the ball when in possession.

It is a pity that the big man can not get among the goals, but he does contribute and was one of Makedonia's better players in this match.

After some early pressure, Makedonia went into the lead, when Bugs Nykofsky failed to clear C. Opasine's cross in the 10th minute, allowing Jim Bolevski to nip in and hammer the ball past Willie McNally.

In the 35th minute George McMillan returned the compliment when he completely misjudged a harmless looking cross. The ball dropped in front of the somewhat surprised Pat De Vito and Steve Potter did well to save his shot from 10 metres.

Just on half time, Juventus equalised against the run of play. Makedonia lost concentration, allowing Alex Tobin to run 40 metres with the ball unchallenged, and his cross from the left was handled by Odzakov inside the area.

Sergio Melta made no mistake from the spot. Melita, incidentally, had an excellent game.

In the second half Makedonia still had more possession, but Odzakov looked like scoring except from set pieces due to the aerial ability of Dobson.

In the 65th minute Juve was reduced to 10 men when Charlie Villani, the recipient of a yellow card in the first half, was sent off for handling the ball.

True, he handled the ball but it appeared to be a reflex reaction rather than an intentional one. At any rate, Makedonia failed to take advantage of its good fortune and had no idea how to break down the determined Juve defence.

Tragedy struck for Makedonia in the 83rd minute. Juve counter attacked on the left and Steve Maxwell's cross was deflected into goal by George McMillan under pressure from Pat Di Vito.

Lloyd, Mancinelli sent off

**B. Juventus 1
Green Gully 4**



Craig Mackenzie

**Man of the Match:
STUART CANNELL
(Green Gully)**

Scorers: Lloyd 36th (BJ), McGuinness 6th, Carter 15th, Lewis 75th, 90th (GG).
Venue: Olympic Park No. 2.
Crowd: 1011.
Cautions: Brown, Dowis, Ward (BJ).
Sent off: Mancinelli (GG).
Lloyd (BJ)
Referee: Stuart Mellings 7.

Bobby McLachlan will

cringe if he reads this. Nevertheless, let's say it. Green Gully can finish in the top five in the National Conference this season.

Gully completely outplayed Juventus here. The black and white had a good 15 minute spell before half time but are so inept going forward, so bereft of ideas, that they rarely troubled Gully goalie Lou Denys, who was injured just before half time and hobbed about throughout the second half.

Kevin Lloyd and Fabio Mancinelli clashed in the 60th minute and were sent off by referee Stuart Mellings. Gully was leading 2-1 at the time and Mancinelli a few minutes earlier had been involved in a clash with Gary Ward. Mellings was right on the spot

when Mancinelli and Lloyd clashed and didn't hesitate in waving the red card under their noses. It was slow for Juventus, more than Green Gully, for Juve really struggled up front nowadays.

Joe Sweeney is a sad loss for Juventus. Ward battles away with little support, often competing against two opponents, yet still runs the gauntlet of abuse from Juventus fans, who seem unable to appreciate that Sweeney's absense has left Ward carrying the flag alone up front.

Lloyd, a tremendous competitor, scored Juve's goal — the best of the game — but that's a rarity for Lloyd, and sadly for Juve.

But let's talk about Green Gully's revival, which surely now has gathered momentum.

The green and whites got the start, they dreamed of when former Juventus striker Bobby McGuinness struck in the 6th minute. McGuinness, the 1981 Victorian Rothmans Medal

he smacked it with his left foot, sending it whistling over Denys and into the net of the net.

Paul Lewis hadn't done much in the first half, but even the Juventus fans were worried by the threat posed by his pace in the second half, should Juventus get caught too far forward pressing for the equaliser.

And that's exactly what happened.

Gully's third goal, scored by Lewis in the 75th minute, came after a superb inter-passing movement.

David Hobgen knocked the ball back to Jim Williams inside Gully's defensive half. Williams played it forward to Carter who touched it off for McGuinness, wide on the left. McGuinness played it inside to Lewis, who turned his man in a flash, charged toward goal, then expertly slotted the ball past advancing Keogh and into the far corner.

Lewis again hit Juventus on the break, this time in the final 10 minutes. Keogh did well to push Lewis wide and almost gathered the ball but Lewis followed it up and drove it in from a tight angle, with Billy Rogers on the goal line.

Juventus was a sad and sorry bunch at the game's end.

In contrast, Gully players were looking out their victory song in the dressing rooms.



• Kevin Lloyd — sent off against Green Gully

The Gully fans were just as happy. And why not? They'd seen their lads turn in a top display and those Gully fans loyal enough to go early and watch the youth team game would have seen David Smallman shining off his considerable talents.

Yes, things really are looking up at Green Gully these days.

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Green Gully, from left, standing: Robert Krajacic, Paul Wade, Lou Denys, Ron Kremers, Stuart Cannell, Jim Williams, Fabio Mancinelli. Front: David Hogben, Paul Lewis, Les Carter, Willie Vassallo, Bobby McGuiness, Steve McClelland. Missing: Ken Smart, David Smallman, Steve Short, Paul Beranic. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

Whatever their chosen league format for 1985, NSL clubs should put up or shut up, says Green Gully president Guy Spiteri. Commenting on the many suggested NSL formats, Spiteri said:

"Each club should come up with \$30,000 up front. That would give us more than enough to run the league.

"It's no good saying we'll pay \$4000 now and \$10,000 in July and the rest at the end of the year. In many cases the clubs just haven't been able to pay.

"If it's compulsory at the start of the year, clubs will have to pay before they use their money on anything else. In Green Gully's case, if we didn't have the cash, we'd borrow it.

"Then with enough in the kitty, the league manager, Steve Kamasz, could go out to get sponsorship and money for TV rights, which would be cream on top of the cake.

"The trouble in the past has been talking about all the things we want to do, but not about how to fund them."

Spiteri added: "We have to face facts. In a country like Australia, where travelling costs are so high, we can't run a true national league on the sort of budget we've been framing. Either we go the whole hog, with clubs putting their money up front, or we should scrap it altogether."

He is wary about a proposal to increase the Australian (northern) Conference to 14 clubs and reduce the National (southern) Conference to 10, making it necessary for the National Conference clubs to play against each other three times instead of two. He doubts whether the fans would sustain their interest.

Yet Green Gully profited from its elevation to the NSL until the world series caused a four-week break in the competition.

"Even though the team wasn't doing well, we were trading in the black until the world series, and the disastrous National Cup," Spiteri said.

"The Cup competition really put us behind the eight ball, but before

Has Spiteri the cure for the NSL's ills?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

that, our attendances were up at least 25 per cent on last year's.

Home games against Brisbane City and Adelaide City, for example, gave us far better returns than games against Wilhelmina, Croydon and Albion Rovers in the State League.

Trading (including that in the social club) was more profitable even though players' wages went up 50 per cent.

Transfer dealings showed a profit, with Bobby McGuiness, Les Carter, Ken Smart and Paul Wade being bought for about \$17,000 and Peter Lewis, Danny Beranic, Eddie Kuzman and Paul Lewis returning about \$20,000. Paul Lewis gave Gully a \$3000 profit — the difference between what Hellas paid for him and the amount for which it sold him back.

Spiteri agrees that Green Gully hasn't yet scratched the surface of the potential soccer support in St. Albans, where the club is situated, but adds that this cannot be done until spectator facilities are improved.

"In February, we put a submission to the Commonwealth Government, through Keilor City Council, for \$250,000 to improve spectator facilities, but we haven't as yet received an answer. The money would be spent on putting steps into the embankment on the eastern side, and covering that area. It was to be done under the Commonwealth employment scheme.

"We've also put in for a joint venture with the City of Keilor to provide another ground entrance plus a toilet block and canteen at the northern end. The council's estimates committee is to discuss that in September.

"Also, the City of Keilor puts up \$100,000 every year in grants and loans to upgrade social club facilities of sports clubs. This year it's our turn and we're expecting \$15,000 as a grant and \$15,000 as a loan, which we'll use to enlarge the social club's kitchen and improve toilet facilities."

Guy Spiteri and his committee are not totally satisfied with the way the NSL has been run and the way the league competition has been planned. He adds, however, that the management committee has struggled valiantly to be constructive,

while at the same time fighting a rearguard action against political threats to the league's very existence.

About the current format of the league, he says: "In the first 10 weeks of the competition, the format was working fine. Now they're saying that the challenge rounds are not good, because they cost too much in travelling expenses, and none of the clubs has the cash to spare. That wouldn't have been the case had they put their money up front."

He said commonsense planning had been displayed in the choice of venues for the inter-conference challenge round at the weekend. "The league has chosen the venues at which it will keep the optimum return, and that's the way it always should have been."

Our discussion then turned to the Green Gully team. Asked to name the players who had been most successful so far, Spiteri had no hesitation choosing midfielder Paul Wade,

who was bought from Croydon City early this year and who played previously with Slavia.

"He gives you 120 per cent in every game and he doesn't know how to give up," Spiteri said. "In my 18 years with Green Gully I haven't seen a player with more determination or potential. Once he matures, and spares his game a bit more, he will be top-class material. He lives at Hellens on the other side of town and although he has to travel very long distances to train with us three nights a week, I haven't heard him complain once. I give our former coach, Jimmy Rooney, full credit for having pinpointed Wade's ability and brought him to us."

"Les Carter, bought from Adelaide City, also has been a tremendous success, and he's developed into a real clubman as well."

"There are three factors that prevent us from realising our full potential in the first half of the season. First, we lost Paul Lewis who stood out of the game and then played for Hellens before returning. Then there was the injury to our sweeper, Steve Short, who has just had an operation, and finally there was Peter Lewis' transfer to Melbourne Croatia. Had it not been for those factors, we would have been much, much higher up the ladder."

Spiteri said coach Bobby McLachlan currently was trying to sign a defender from overseas to fill the club's remaining temporary visa vacancy. McLachlan has been offered the coaching job for next year as well and is almost certain to accept. It is he more than anyone who is responsible for the club's successes on the field in recent years, because of his inspired recruiting moves.

Asked whether Gully's 35-year-old Maltese star Willie Vassallo would renew this threat to retire at the end of the season, Spiteri said: "Every year he says he wants to give it away, but we've been extremely happy with his form, and he con-

GR

There's a new feeling in the air at Green Gully these days. The supporters have an expectant air about them, and a spring in their step.

They don't talk about being third bottom any more, now it's "we're only one point outside the five."

And the reason for all this optimism? It's not hard to find the "why" is back... Bobby McLachlan has returned to what most fans feel is his spiritual home, after 18 months in the Schineller wilderness.

To Green Gully fans, success and McLachlan are synonymous and can you blame them? In his previous three-year spell the club was so successful it was almost embarrassing, and it had to move a new trophy cupboard as it accumulated two State League

championships, two Dockerty Cups, an Ampol Cup and a State League Cup.

The \$64,000 question is... can McLachlan, the architect of State League success, do it again for the Gully at National League level?

Let's look at the players at his disposal and his assessment of them.

LOU DENYS: "Has to be one of the most underrated goalkeepers in the country. He's not showy but he's so dependable, very effective, and above all, a great clubman."

STUART CANNELL: "For a mere \$1000 the big man must rate as one of the greatest bargains the club ever picked up. He



Guy Spiteri

continues to amaze everyone with the amount of work he puts into his game."

VASSALLO: is the former captain of Malta, and was player-coach of Maltese club Floriana.

Green Gully's social club premises at Green Gully Reserve have emerged as one of the most popular meeting spots in St. Albans. It is used for meetings of the St. Albans Rotary Club every Wednesday. It is booked for weddings on many Saturdays, and other organisations which have booked the building include the Green Gully Tennis Club and the Massy Ferguson Social Club.

There are about 200 players at Green Gully — probably 150 of them in the junior teams from under 9 to under 16 levels. The juniors are run by a sub-committee headed by Joe Bayona.

While the social committee runs regular bingo sessions, the junior committee also organises functions. For example, it ran a profitable wrestling night which it hopes will develop into a bi-monthly event.

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GREEN GULLY

By LES SHORROCK

en made team captain and he'll be instrumental in the club away from the

zone."

VE McCLELLAND: Steve's unfortunate debut for Green Gully has been in the name, practically the first he touched the ball in fact, has fought his way back into team with typical tenacity. He's tough and rugged now he's going to prove acquisition."

SMART: "Smart is an unassuming player who rough a ton of work unobtrusively. My only problem with that I can't make up my about his best position."

E HOBGEN: "Dave has led into a fast, aggressive-acking back who loves to One of his best characters is his excellent attitude to his partner never pushed him. In clubs, parents who are also can become an embarrasment, but this was never the th Hobgens."

WILLIE VASSALLO: "How did Cole Porter put it? Like a good wine, he gets better and better as the years roll by. That's Willie. Still as enthusiastic as ever, great on the field, even greater off it and a wonderful example to the younger players."

PAUL WADE: "Paul who? Really, if I read once more how good he is, I'll have to start believing it. Seriously, though, I've always been against rave reviews about rising young stars (remember 'Duncan Cummings') but where Paul is concerned, and looking at him through the eyes of a journalist, it's hard not to get enthusiastic. This boy is going to be great."

JIM WILLIAMS: "Jim's a very confident player who reads the game as well as anyone I know. Back in 1981, Guy Spiteri, Arnold Langer and I went on a buying spree, and of all the players we bought then, I think that Jim Williams was the biggest bargain. Jim's in his fourth year with the club and looking

good for another half a dozen seasons."

LES CARTER: "Les is one of the classiest players in the country, as you would expect with his pedigree. In the hurly-burly, 100 mile an hour rush of the present National League, he stands out like a sore thumb. A great asset."

BOBBY MCGUINNESS: "As South Melbourne Hollus discovered earlier this year, it can sometimes be a great embarrassment having three strikers for two positions. Since taking over I've used Bobby in a different role and he's responded magnificently, like the true pro he is."

PAUL LEWIS: "If Paul ever gets round to writing his autobiography the title is ready-made - 'Goals are my business'. Before he left his old English club, Chester, his manager told me, 'If it's goals you're after, this is the boy'. Ever since then Paul has more than lived up to his reputation, and there's more, lots more to come."

DAVID SMALLMAN: "A touch of class... nothing sums up David better. Before I came back, David got himself in a bit of trouble with the club, but that has all been sorted out, and from what I've seen of him on the pitch he's going to play a vital part in our survival fight."

STEVE SHORT: "It's really tragic to see this likeable,

staunch clubman who loves the game struggling against a terrible run of injuries. Most players would have cracked it, but Steve's made of sterner stuff, and he'll be doing his bit before long."

RON KREMER: "The gentle giant. I rate big Ronnie highly (that's a joke, get it?) He will be a better player when he learns not to keep the spectators

docking with his long, raking passes."

PAUL BERANIC: "A nuggety, dependable defender straight from the juniors who was chucked in at the deep end at the start of the season and came out with credit. He can only improve."

ROBERT KRAJICIC: "Just signed from Heidelberg. A dedicated, stylish player and definitely one for the future."



Paul Wade

Life members

Green Gully has seven honorary life members, a title bestowed on members for outstanding service to the club.

They are: Harry Moakes, the club founder; the late Frank Kolbl; Paul Azzopardi; Fred Grimaud; Charlie Farrugia; Joe Sannut and Inger Zounboula-kis.

Five titles

1955 - Formed as a junior club

1956 - Formed as a senior club

1964 - Fourth Division runner-up

1965 - Third Division runner-up

1971 - Second Division champion

1976 - First Division champion

1979 - Ampol Cup winner

1980 - Third in State League

1981 - Won State League, Dockey Cup and Ampol Cup

1982 - Won State League, Dockey Cup and State League Cup winner

1983 - Won State League, Ampol Cup winner

Committee

Green Gully's executive committee:

Guy Spiteri, president; Paul Azzopardi, chairman; Arnold Langer, treasurer; Van Laks, secretary; Mario Borg, Sebastian Galdes, George Gatt, Vic Pace, committee members.



"old firm" is back together again, plotting Green Gully's revival. Coach Bobby (right), treasurer Arnold Langer (left) and president Guy Spiteri played a big part in the Victorian State League glory. Can this trio help to establish Gully as an NSL

ST COACHES, TOP PLAYERS

Gully's Players of

1976 - David Cole
1977 - Jim McGill
1978 - Ian McCarthy
1979 - Willie Vassallo
1980-82 - Bobby McLachlan
1983 - Len McKendry, David
1982 - Jim Williams
1983 - Willie Vassallo
Green Gully's 19 coaches since its formation as a senior club in 1956
1956-63 - Harry Moakes
1964 - Frank Kolbl
1965 - Frank Kolbl, Arnold Langer
1966-67 - Frank Kolbl
1968 - Billy McIvor

1969 - Frank Campbell
1970 - Frank Kolbl, Charlie Vella (joint coaches)
1971-74 - Tony Vella
1975 - Joe Wilson
1976 - Mike de Bruyckere, Ian Petherick
1977 - Jim Ballish, Ian Petherick (joint coaches)
1978 - John Grimsey, Gary Torner, Duncan Mackay
1979 - Billy Vojtek
1980-82 - Bobby McLachlan
1983 - Len McKendry, David Smallman
1984 - Jimmy Rooney, Bobby McLachlan

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SHARKS SAVAGE ILINDEN, MONARO HITS TOP SPOT

Inter Monaro is back at the top of the table after its 3-0 win over Yugal and the Sharks, Sutherland, played a part in Inter's rise with a 3-1 win over Rockdale Ilinden at Hurstville Oval.

Inter Monaro was spearheaded by Sebastian Giampaolo in its brilliant win over Yugal, while Sutherland showed its usual fine season consistency to down Rockdale.

For Rockdale, it was its first loss in 11 matches, while for Sutherland it was its 10th match without defeat and its third straight, a record that has pushed it to within two points of the lead.

Manly Warringah settled its differences with Warringah Narabeen and won the title of the best team north of the harbor by winning 4-1 at Cromer Park. With Mark Holloway injured, Robbie Smart sick, Steve O'Farrell, Andrew and Dudley Fox injured, Manly added Jim McBreen to its unavailable list. The ex-APIA player has been dumped by the club.

And while Manly celebrated its return to the winners circle after five barren weeks, Narabeen has hit rock bottom to trail Bankstown by a point. Bankstown did some reshuffling by replacing star players Meerban and Hammond with young and eager players and Canterbury has been by a late goal at Potts Park.

The race for the title now is on with just five rounds remaining. Let's look at the run home of the top four sides.

INTER MONARO v Canterbury, Bankstown, Rockdale, Manly, Avila.

ROCKDALE: v Bankstown, Ku-Ring-Gai, Inter, Polonia, Manly.

SUTHERLAND: v Ku-Ring-Gai, Polonia, Narabeen, Yugal, Canterbury.

MANLY: v Yugal, Canterbury, Bankstown, Inter, Rockdale.

Sutherland may have the best chance to snatch the title. It has played against all the top teams and will have to deal with the lower echelon on its run home.

Manly Warr 4 Warr. Nara 1

Scorers: Lusk 5th, 83rd, Vale 36th, Steven Pen. 54th, A. Dean 34th.
Venue: Cromer Park.

John Laughran, Manly's secretary, was not impressed with some of the comments allegedly made by Narabeen people earlier this season and promised that his side would win convincingly when the two sides met in a return bout at Cromer Park.

And despite some heavy player losses during the week, which left Manly without its recognized forward line of Fox-Holloway-Stuart, and forced it to use Bobby Pagano as a striker with Panes and Vale as replacement flankers, Manly romped home by three clear goals.

Narabeen, with some good

Romacolani interviewed next week



Teenager Mario Romacolani is one of the rising stars of Victorian State League leader Fawke. Mario will be interviewed by Craig MacKenzie in next week's issue of 'Soccer Action'.

performances under its belt in the last few weeks never came to grips with the slippery conditions and in the end had to thank its keeper Peter Dean for keeping the score down.

Steve Leak scored his eighth goal of the season after only five minutes to give Manly the edge but Allan Dean cancelled it with a goal a half an hour later. It threatened to level up again in another 1-1 draw for the briefest of moments, but Peter Vale put paid to those thoughts with a well taken goal two minutes later to give Manly a 2-1 advantage at half time.

Manly never was extended during the second period and added further goals through Tom Steven and Steve Leak. Steven scored from a penalty after Peter Dean brought down Leak inside the area.

Celebrations were in full swing for the home side only moments after its reserves defeated Narabeen 8-0 and the thirds team won 5-0. The only "bleeding" was that goal of Allan Dean's, but it could hardly be a consolation for Poor Narabeen.

Avala 1 Polonia 3

Scorers: Duvnjak 7th, Sobczyk 25th, Ovcarek 27th, Galas Pen. 25th.
Venue: Knight Park.

Avala must rue using Knight Park for it has been graveyard all season! Apart from its 2-0 win over Warringah and 2-2 draw with Narabeen, Avala has lost only one match, winning three and having four other matches drawn!

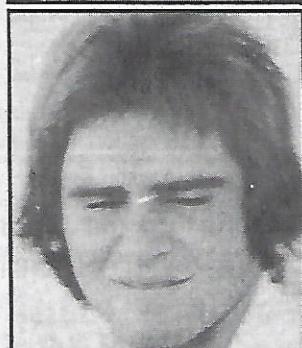
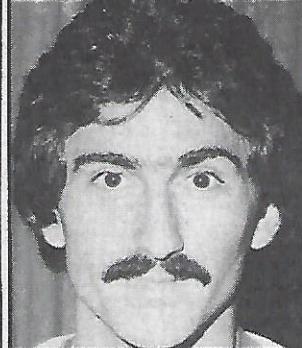
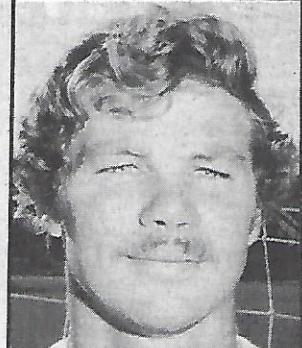
Against Polonia, the sad story repeated itself. Nikola Duvnjak's thunderbolt in the 7th minute surprised Barker to put Avala ahead and for the next 20 minutes Avala looked like home. Avala has lost only one match, winning three and having four other matches drawn!

Against Polonia, the sad story repeated itself. Nikola Duvnjak's thunderbolt in the 7th minute surprised Barker to put Avala ahead and for the next 20 minutes Avala looked like home. Avala has lost only one match, winning three and having four other matches drawn!

Rockdale 1
Sutherland 3

Scorers: Gray 10th, Dalforno 0.15th, Rogers 65th, Hargraves 80th.
Venue: Hurstville Oval

Six wins and four draws



Four of the stars of the NSW State League. Top, left, Avala midfielder Richie Williams; top, right, Chris Thamnides of Yugal; above, left, Canterbury striker Craig Hall; above, right, veteran Sutherland defender Keith Schumann.

another great keeper is about to be produced by Sutherland. Sutherland's strength is its great midfield combination as well as its solid backline. Jimmy Webber has made an impact on Sutherland's midfield since his return, while John Stoddart has slotted into his new side with ease.

Slavesci, Nastevski and Jones could not match the speed and enthusiasm of the Sutherland midfield prompting Ilija Takac, the coach of Ilinden, to tip Sutherland for the title.

Bankstown 2 Canterbury 1

Scorers: Parker 65th, Hassan 81st, Petas 88th.
Venue: Potts Park.

Don't write off Banks-ton yet!

After 13 matches without a win you'd think it would be very hard to motivate its players. Somehow, Bankstown refuses to concede that the season is over and sacked two of its star players, Meerban and Hammond, and introduced youth for this match — with great success.

Goals by Parker and Hassan came after good work by El Hosseini and a late goal by John Petas, after Luis Dounis hit the post, did not dent the hopes of a Bankstown revival.

Inter 3 Yugal 0

Scorers: Valeri Pen 20th, Glam-pao 40th, 75th.
Venue: Queenbeyan

"We have the best player in Australia", claimed Laurie Pastrorello after his side, Inter Monaro demolished Yugal by 3-0 at Marco Polo last Sunday.

"Seb Giampaolo is just magic, and there is no amount of money that can buy this player", claimed Inter's President.

Giampaolo was the difference between the sides. After Walter Valeri put Inter ahead in the 20th minute with a well taken penalty, Giampaolo scored two fine goals to seal Yugal's fate during the second half. His second and Monaro's third goal was a gem as Giampaolo walked right through Yugal's defence to score a superb solo goal.

Brian Barker and Angelo Ambrosino had fine games indeed as did Peter Berry for Yugal. However, Berry could not save Yugal from defeat, but he certainly kept the score-line down.

STATE LEAGUE TABLE					
	W	D	L	F	A Pts
INTER MONARO	10	5	2	51	21 25
ROCKDALE	10	4	3	33	18 24
MANLY WARR.	8	7	2	31	11 23
SUTHERLAND	9	5	3	28	14 23
Auburn	6	7	5	15	14 19
Ku-Ring-Gai	4	7	6	21	27 15
Polonia	5	5	7	17	23 15
Canterbury	5	5	7	18	30 15
Avala	4	5	8	24	36 13
Yugal	3	5	9	24	27 11
Bankstown	3	5	9	16	39 11
Warr. Narabeen	3	4	10	18	35 10

TOP SCORERS

13—Brown (RI), Valeri (IM).
9—Parker, Holloway (MW), O'Shane (Aub.).
7—Milne (Av), Giampaolo (IM).
7—Groome (S), Vesic (Y).
6—Monteroso, Wilcox (IM), Jeffery (K), Stuart (MW), Sobczyk (P).
5—Budini (Av), Dounis (C), Jones (RI), McGrath (Y).
4—Hassan (B), Colbaltaldo (IM), Bass (K), Bullock, Sandter (N).

THIS WEEK

Saturday: Arlington Oval: Canterbury v Inter Monaro.
Sunday: Fraser Park: Yugal v Manly; Narabeen: Warringah v Avala; Chopin Park: Polonia v Auburn; Parklands: Ku-Ring-Gai v Sutherland; Potts Park: Bankstown v Rockdale.

MANLY WARRINGAH 4 (Leek 5th, 83rd, Vale 36th, Steven 5th) NARABEEEN 1 (A. Dean 34th) at Cromer Park.

MANLY: Conradi 7, — Plied 7, Dick 8, Doyle (Williamson 25th — 8), Lynch 7, — Jones 7, Steven 7, Leak 9 (Etherington 80th), Panes 6, Pagano 8, Vale 6.

NARABEEEN: Dean 7, — Sorge 6, Rylands 7, Garrett 7, Mahoney 6, Rimmer 6, — Dean 7, Griff 7, Hanley 6 (Sandtrner 61st — 6), McLean 6 (Collings 61st — 5).

AVALA 1 (Duvnjak 7th) POLONIA 3 (Sobczyk 25th, Ovcarek 28th, Galas Pen 85th) at Knight Park.

AVALA: Thurlow 7, — Collins 6, Budini 7, Mackenzie 6, Da Silva 6, — Duvnjak 8 (Bratkovic 72nd), Rodriguez 5 (Stamenovic 46th — 6), Williams 7, — Lembray 6, Bateman 6, Milne 5.

POLONIA: Barker 8, — Jordan 7, Galas 8, Fogarty 8, Pratt 7, — Vanderberg 7, Kowalczyk 8, Lumsdaine 7, Nowak 8 — Sobczyk 8, Ovcarek 9.

AUBURN URUGUAY 1 (Townson 79th) KU-RING-GAI 1 (Bass 29th) at Mona Park.

AUBURN: Rosano 7 — Kelly 8, Watt 7, Planican 7, Parfitt 7 — Akutsu 7, Carney 6, McDermid 6 (Geekie 46th — 7), Townson 8, — Knight 7, Benales 7 (O'Shane 48th — 6).

KU-RING-GAI: Prentice 7, — Bennett 7, Bertram 9, Watson 7, Jesse 8, — Quigley 6, Bourke 7, Harper 6, Tracey 6, — Jeffery 7 (N. Williamson 82nd), Bass 7.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 1 (Dalforno og. 15th) SUTHERLAND 3 (Gray 10th, Rogers 65th, Hargraves 80th) at Hurstville Oval.

ILINDEN: D. Smith 7, — Dugney 7, Pilovski 7, D. Wilson 7, G. Wilson 7, — Stavesci 5, Nastevski 5, Jones 5, — Trajnovski 6 (Risotto 50th — 7), Karanilovski 7, Brown 6 (Bottalico 80th).

SUTHERLAND: Dan 9, — Hesford 7, Schumann 7, Dalforno 7, Nelson 7, — Webber 8, Rogers 8, Stoddart 7, — Groves 7, Groome 7, Gray 7.

BANKSTOWN NATIONAL 2 (Parker 65th, Hassan 81st) CANTERBURY 1 (Petas 83th) at Potts Park.

BANKSTOWN NATIONAL: Lohman 8, — Agoston 7, Coates 8, Blacktown 8, Ishmail 7, — Dolton 8, Parker 8, Genz 8, Apenian 7, — Hassan 7, El Hosseini 8.

CANTERBURY: Konstis 7 (El Zein 55th — 6), — Antonopoulos 6, Hantzis 7, Titles 7, Etimades 8, — Andreou 6, Frenthas 7 (Phillipou 60th — 6), Anagnostopoulos 6, — Petas 6, Dounis 6, Hall 8.

INTER MONARO 3 (Valeri Pen. 20th, Giampaolo 40th, 75th) YUGAL 0 at Queenbeyan.

INTER MONARO: Hocking 7 — Domazetovic 7, Ambrosino 8, Santolin 8, Williams 7, — Wilcox 7, Monteroso 7 (Colbaltaldo — 7), Farrell 7, — Brennan 8, Valeri 8, Giampaolo 9.

YUGAL: Berry, Marco, Forrester, Clarke, Gibson, — Pahor, Jesic, Zivkovic, Rodas, Thamnides, Tenovski. (NO RATINGS AVAILABLE).

CAN HUMMEL COME BACK?

Former National Youth goalkeeper Chris Hummel has four weeks to complete a comeback and re-establish himself among the top custodians in Australian Soccer.

Hummel was the first choice for the Australian team for the World Youth championship qualifying rounds in 1983 but was replaced by Canberra team-mate Anthony Franken for the finals in Mexico.

Franken now has taken a starring role with Canberra in the National League and was selected by Frank Arok in the Australia B team for the recent international series.

Hummel was forced into a background role with Canberra and four weeks ago transferred to Melita Eagles on loan for the rest of this season after Melita keeper Alec McPherson broke a wrist against Sydney Hakoah.

"I spent nearly two years with Chris in the National Youth team and it's a good chance for him to prove how good he is," said Melita coach Paul Blanco.

"Franken was in his shadow for most of that time but the position is now reversed. I wanted to see Chris in action and wanted him to see us."

"The club has an option to buy him at the end of the year and the fee is not expensive. He is playing very well but needs more time to work in better with his defence."

Hummel received plenty of work in recent weeks when Melita lost 2-0 to Sydney Hakoah and 1-0 to APIA and won 1-0 against Blacktown.

"Alec will be determined to try to regain his position in the team as soon as he gets back into training and it will be up to Chris to keep him in better with his defence."

At one stage a few weeks ago, Blanco had eight of his original line-up out of action as well as his imported Maltese international, Silvio Emauele.

Ray Farrugia, Emanuele, and Wayne Farnsworth have all had runs in the youth team and Stuart Johnston has had the stitches removed from a fractured cheekbone.



GIBSON AND PRZYBYLA BACK?

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Dave Gibson and Janusz Przybyla could be back in the Polonia line-up for Saturday's crucial clash with Morell Falcons at North Cringan Reserve.

Gibson returns from holl days this week. Przybyla, Polonia's ace scorer, has had trouble throwing off injury but he played for 30 minutes in the reserves game against Wilhelmina last Sunday and Polonia coach John Gardner is under-

stood to be keen to use Przybyla against Falcons.

One player who will be really fired up for this match is Polonia striker Noel Mitten. He played for Falcons in 1982 and 1983 but fell out of favor with certain committee members and switched to Polonia this season. Mitten will be keen to show a few people at Falcons that he is still a quality player and that the club was wrong to release him.

Falcons midfielder Steve Moore surprised by missing two penalties against Doveton last weekend. He usually makes no mistake from the

spot and in a match of this significance, won't want to slip up a third time, if he again is called upon to take a penalty.

Ian Stirton has scored four goals in four games for Falcons after switching from Doveton. That's an impressive record, one which he'll want to maintain here and one which will give Gardner plenty to think about this week as to plans his team's tactics.

Morell is just one point ahead of Polonia and should maintain that margin here. I'm going for a draw.

Selwyn Park and a surprisingly competitive Albion Rovers outfit send shudders through every opposition coach. Box Hill boss Bill Murray knows that his lads are in for a real dogfight on Saturday.

The Hillmen have proven themselves against the best in State League. They lost their opening league game and are unbeaten since I think they can stretch their amazing 16 game unbeaten run here and can add to their win record in the process.

Don Brownlie, sent off against Croydon last weekend, probably will have his stop-

per's spot taken by Dean Hennessey. Charlie Spiteri of Albion is out for the rest of the season. He broke his ankle in the first 15 minutes of Albion's 3-1 win over Broadmeadows two weeks ago.

Fawke travels to John Cain Reserve on Sunday, looking for a convincing win after dropping a point to St. Albans Dinamo last weekend. Young Northcote left back George Mihos probably won't confront experienced Fawke wing-back Paulinek if Palintek gets the better of Mihos and can get in crosses for Ian Tuffield to exploit his awesome heading ability, Fawke will walk this one.

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Northcote v FAWKNER at John Cain Reserve, 3 pm.

Buffalo State League ladder

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FAWKNER	11	4	2	44	23	26
MORWELL	10	6	1	30	10	26
POLOMIA	10	5	2	40	21	25
BOX HILL	9	7	1	33	18	25
West. Suburbs	8	4	5	33	31	20
Albion Rovers	6	6	5	17	20	18
Northcote	8	1	8	35	26	17
Croydon	7	2	8	21	26	16
Frank. Pines	4	7	6	19	24	15
R. Wilhelmina	3	6	8	25	30	12
Knox City	4	4	9	24	40	12
St. Alb Dinamo	2	7	8	21	34	11
Doveton	2	4	11	14	29	8
Broadmeadows	3	1	13	11	35	7

FRANKSTON PINES 1 (Cooke 80th) ALBION ROVERS 1 (Alfonso 55th) at Monterey Boulevard, Saturday.

FRANKSTON PINES: Sturzbury 7 — Thunow 7, Livingstone 6, Wilson 6, Ferri 6 — Luca 6 (Cook 60th), Cullen 7, Beech 7 — Dick 7, Ross 8, Thomas 6 (Cumming 75th). Coach: Danny McMinimee.

ALBION ROVERS: Gipri 7 — Galea 8, Gilmour 7, D'Sylva 8, Douglas 7 — Purcell 6, Reilly 6, Alfonso 7 — McMorrow 6 (Rodrigues 75th), Bouza 6, Robertson 6. Coach: Billy McIntyre.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. D'Sylva (AR), 2. Ross (Pines), 1. Galea (AR).

BROADMEADOWS 0 NORTHCOTE 1 (Constantinou 20th) at Laura Douglas Reserve, Saturday.

BROADMEADOWS: Grech 8 Smart 8, Donaldson 8, Daniels 8, Dessa 8 — Blair 8, Horfinia 7, Habic 7 — Vaccaro 6, McIntyre 6 (in), Chiantari H.T. 6, Liberto 6. Coach: Jim McIntyre.

NORTHCOTE: Giannopoulos 7 — Wilson 8, Bozikis 8, Katsikidis 8, Mihos 7 — Toro 7, Quigley 7 (Belkaris 80th), Wright 7 — Diopoulos 7, Micevski 7, Constantinou 7. Coach: Jimmy Pyrgolios.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Wilson (North), 2. Blair (Broad), 1. Dessa (Broad).

KNOX CITY 2 (House 12th, 75th) WESTERN SUBURBS 3 (Lazopoulos 26th, 43rd, Coyle 27th) at Eggen Le Reserve, Saturday.

KNOX CITY: Brian 7 — Smith 7, Bissinger 7, Dixon 7, Roddis 7 — Will 7, Bryant 7, Lespere 7 — Kojic 7, House 8, Masters 7. Coach: Eric Leasing.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Hunter 7 — Hamill 7, Dimovski 7, Howe 8, Lekakis 7 — Kakantos 8 (inj. Borg 60th, Diliberto 75th), Esposito 6, Muzzel 7 — Lazopoulos 9, Coyle 8, Stenson 8. Coach: Jimmy Connidis.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Lazopoulos (WS), 2. House (Knox), 1. Stenson (WS).

ST ALBANS DINAMO 2 (Bruno 77th, Morovic 81st) FAWKNER 2 (Garvey 1st, Cozzella 6th) at Churchill Reserve, Saturday.

ST ALBANS DINAMO: Debeljak 6 — Nobili 6, Redman 6, Brkicic 8, Bozic 6 — Della 6 (Bruno 80th), Batinovic 7, Rastovic 6 — Mecanovic 6 (Kustura 87th), Morovic 8, Culina 5. Coach: Pero Kasalo.

FAWKNER: Costi 5 — MacLeod 6, Cavallari 5, Fatore 5, McKinley 6 — Palinkas 5, Bannon 6, Angle 5 — Della 6, Cozzella 6, Garvey 6. Coach: Gus MacLeod.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Brkicic 2, Morovic (SLA), 1. Batinovic (SLA).

POLOMIA 3 (Gilder 35th, Mitten penalty 39th, 79th) RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 2 (Stewart 26th, 42nd) at Raleigh Reserve, Sunday.

POLOMIA: Lukas 6 — Liparski 6, Mila 6, Innes 6, Smolarek 7 — G. Czaprak 8 (inj. Gregorczyk 80th), Gardiner 7, Trout 6, Petrov 6 — Mitten 8, Gilder 7. Coach: John Gardner.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Lee 7 — Corke 6, Haupt 7 (Murray 80th), Storm 5, Verner 6 — Kebbe 7, Shannon 7, Burton 8 — Warsawski 6, Wendum 6, Stewart 8 (inj. Adams 60th). Coach: Cor Teuuw.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Mitten (Pol), 2. Stewart (Ring), 1. Burton (Wilh).

BOX HILL 4 (Smith 2nd, 7th, 19th, 61st) CROYDON 2 (Griffiths 30th, Ormond 35th) at Wembley Park, Sunday.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 8 — I. Roodhouse 8, Brooks 9, Brownlie 7 (sent off 49th), Raline 7, Kerr 6, Brewerton 6, Brown 6 — Irvine 8, Singleton 6 (Livingstone 77th), French 7, Ormond 6 (L. Sial 71st) — Griffiths 8, Loughnane 6. Coach: Colin Hasler.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Smith (Box), 2. Brooks (Box), 1. Griffiths (Croy).

DOVETON 0 MORWELL FALCONS 1 (Stirton 35th) at Waratah Reserve, Sunday.

DOVETON: Radov 8 — Dixey 6, Gadsby 7, Lowe 7, Fitzpatrick 6 — Watson 6, Buchanan 7, McLeod 6, Buchanan 6, M. McDonald 6 (Holmes 85th) — J. McDonald 6, Edmondson 6. Coach: Ian Williamson.

MORWELL FALCONS: Whiteside 6 — Higham 7, Clerke 7, Burns 6, Train 6 — O'Callaghan 8, Moon 5, Maclean 7, Cassar 6 — Athershy 6, Stirton 7. Coach: Jimmy Dunne.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. O'Callaghan (MF), 2. Radov (Doves), 1. Clarke (MF).

SCHIPANO AWARD

Schipano Home Furnishers are the sponsors of our 1984 State League Player of the Year award.

The winner receives \$1000 worth of furniture of his choice. Votes are cast on a 3-2 basis for each State League game. In the event of a tie, the player making the least number of appearances will be declared the winner.

Leading votegivers:

22 — Smith (Box Hill)
17 — MacLean (Morw), Stenson (WS)
15 — Tuffield (Faw), Lazopoulos (WS)
14 — I. Roodhouse (Box Hill)
13 — Culina (St.A)
12 — House (Knox), Bingham (Morw), Quigley (North), Mila, Mitten (Pol), Burton (Wilh).

VSF Travel Club award

The VSF Travel Club, in conjunction with Ametco Travel, is sponsoring our 1984 State League Top Scorer award.

The winner receives a return trip to Singapore, flying Thai International.

Leading scorers:

17 — Smith (Box Hill)
13 — Tuffield, Cozzella (Faw), Przybyla (Pol)
12 — Moore (Morw)
11 — House (Knox), Mitten (Pol), Lazopoulos, Coyle (WS)

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

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Fawke striker Ian Tuffield shows off his amazing jumping ability, and surprises St Albans Dinamo goalie Mike Debeljuh who is trying to punch clear. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

Fickle Fawke

By LES SHORROCK

St. A. Dinamo 2 Fawke 2

Scorers: Bruno 77th, Morovic 81st (St. A); Garvey 1st, Cozzella 6th (F).

Venue: Churchill Reserve.

What a Jeky and Hyde outfit this Fawke mob is!

but the early lead must have lulled Fawke into a mood of false security, because so often seemed even perturbed at the misses.

In the 65th minute Dinamo coach Pero Kasalo took off Ivan Dula and brought on Johnny Brune, in a desperation move that almost won the game.

The unbelievable (from Fawke's point of view) happened 12 minutes later when the sub became an instant hero as he forced the ball over the line to make it 2-1, and from that point on Fawke fell apart like wet cardboard.

Now it was Dinamo creating the chances, and with Fawke's midfield virtually non-existent, it seemed only a matter of time before the equaliser came.

Dennis Morovic, who had been giving the Fawke defence a torrid time, beat three defenders before slamming the ball past Tony Costa to make it 2-2.

Young Costa, standing in for Robert Terzini, had a very nervous afternoon, but he made up for it all in the closing minutes when he made a superb reflex save at point-blank range from Morovic to enable Fawke to sneak away with a point.

So what excuses can I make for Fawke? Of course it missed suspended Gary Hobson, but he'll be back this week. Unfortunately Peter Boyle, out with a shin splint, won't and without him the Fawke midfield just doesn't exist.

dominating territorially could not make the vital breakthrough.

At the 7th minute, Mullett released McCarthy on the right. His low cross was met by Van Egmond, whose shot beat Meletis only for the ball to strike the far post and rebound into the keeper's arms.

The second half provided a similar pattern with most of the play in Moreland's half. Nyholt twice went close, on the second occasion bringing a fingertip save from Meletis.

The Moreland defence was under pressure but Waters was a steady influence at the back.

Even in the last minute the action was in the Moreland half, the goal keeper O'Connor, scooped a goal-bound shot off the line to safety. Moreland can thank its only direct shot on goal. Nunawading slipped close toward the relegation zone, and Moreland earned two valuable points when this game was decided by a first minute goal.

A long cross from the left found O'Connor in the area. He beat his defender, then shot past Fenshaw. Ironically, that was just about Moreland's only direct shot on goal. Nunawading, however, although

Smith blitzes Croydon

By JOHN WALLACE

Scorers: Smith 2nd, 7th, 19th, 61st (Box Hill); Griffiths 30th, Ormond 35th (Croydon). Venue: Wembley Park.

Smith has scored four goals in four games for Albion after switching from Doveton last weekend. Young Northcote left back George Mihos probably won't confront experienced Fawke wing-back Paulinek if Palintek gets the better of Mihos and can get in crosses for Ian Tuffield to exploit his awesome heading ability, Fawke will walk this one.

young Eddie Ormond whose header made it 3-2.

Four minutes into the second half, big Donald Brownlie was sent off after tangling with Loughnane. Although reduced to 10 men, Box Hill stayed on top, thanks to experienced Dave Brooks who marshalled his defence superbly.

Croydon's fate was sealed when Smith notched his fourth goal in the 61st minute.

The question that must be asked now is: Can anyone stop the Hillmen from claiming the championship?

Polonia fails to flatter

By MICK MITTEN

Polonia 3 Wilhelmina 2

Scorers: Gilder 35th, Mitten 39th, 79th (P); Smith 26th, 42nd (W).

Venue: Raleigh Reserve.

Polonia has to step up the level of its performance if it's going to win the championship. That's the message that came across loud and clear after Polonia's unconvincing victory over a Ringwood star.

Polonia side out in the first half and looked like it wanted to win more than the home team.

Polina put itself under a lot of pressure in the first half with amateurish back passing. On three occasions, Polonia goalie Mike Lukac was forced to dive at full stretch to save bad back passes with Wilhelmina players fast closing in on him.

Wilhelmina took the lead in the 26th minute. A superb cross from Sisaye Kebde found Kenny Stewart, rising

unchallenged in between Stefan Mila and Rick Liparski, and heading into the far corner of goal from seven metres.

Polonia hit back in the 35th minute through Carl Gilder, who had a bit of luck in scoring. Good work by Neil Mitten and Andy Gardiner on the attack saw the ball played to Gilder clear.

His first time through ball sent Gilder clear. Wilhelmina goalie Stuart Lee came off his line to confront Gilder, who got a touch to the ball which deflected off Lee and bounded back to Gilder, enabling him to tap it into the unguarded goal.

A bad mistake by Kees Stewart gave Polonia a 2-1 lead in the 39th minute. A long ball played into the Wilhelmina area seemed harmless enough but Stewart dragged back young George Petrov. The ref was right behind Petrov and pointed to the penalty spot. Mitten easily converted.

But Wilhelmina fought back. In the 42nd minute Barry Burton skinned Mila, got the ball from Kebde and scored.

SELECTIONS

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE

Saturday: Gileys vs Kew (draw); Bell Park vs Northcote; Springfield vs Strathfield; Strathfield vs Northcote; Strathfield vs Ryde.

Sunday: Melton vs Dandenong.

DIVISION TWO

Saturday: Abbottsford vs Croydon.

Sunday: Abbottsford vs Frankston Pines.

DIVISION THREE

Saturday: Baulkham Hills vs Greenacres.

Sunday: Baulkham Hills vs Greenacres.

DIVISION FOUR

Saturday: Baulkham Hills vs Greenacres.

Sunday: Baulkham Hills vs Greenacres.

DIVISION FIVE

Saturday: Clayton Hill vs Greenacres.

Sunday: Clayton Hill vs Greenacres.

DIVISION SIX

Saturday: Dandenong vs Kew.

Sunday: Dandenong vs Kew.

DIVISION SEVEN

Saturday: Dandenong vs Kew.

Sunday: Dandenong vs Kew.

DIVISION EIGHT

Saturday: Dandenong vs Kew.

Sunday: Dandenong vs Kew.

DIVISION NINE

Saturday: Dandenong vs Kew.

Sunday: Dandenong vs Kew.

DIVISION TEN

Saturday: Dandenong vs Kew.

Sunday: Dandenong vs Kew.

DIVISION ELEVEN

Saturday: Dandenong vs Kew.

Sunday: Dandenong vs Kew.

DIVISION TWELVE

Saturday: Dandenong vs Kew.

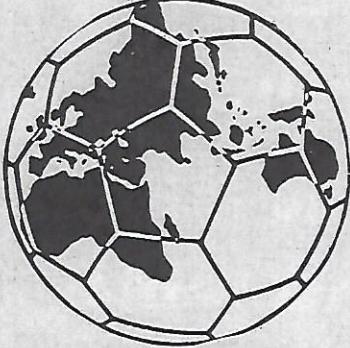
Sunday: Dandenong vs Kew.

DIVISION THIRTEEN

Saturday: Dandenong vs Kew.

Sunday: Dandenong vs Kew.

DIVISION FOURTEEN



COACH TIM DIES AT 66 OR 73

By PAUL MOON

South American soccer lost one of its most colorful characters when Tim died in Rio de Janeiro recently.

Tim, or Elba de Padua Lima to give him his official name, claimed to have been born in 1918, although many believed 1911 to be his birth year.

If he was truthful about his birthdate, Tim would be a senior debutee with Botafogo when 15 years of age and immediately signed to Fluminense for a substantial sum while still a teenager.

The ball-playing inside forward earned 16 caps for Brazil, including an appearance in the 1938 World Cup finals, and late in his career, moved to Argentina where he gained the nickname "El Peón".

As a coach, Tim won titles with Banga, Flamengo, Fluminense and Vasco da Gama in his native country and Argentina's San Lorenzo. After guiding Brazil to the 1968 Mediterranean Championship without losing a single game, Tim was almost strangled by one ecstatic supporter claiming his tie as a souvenir. The Brazilian never sported neckwear again.

Always a firm believer in at-

tacking, entertaining soccer unrestrained by complex strategies, Tim had only one aid when discussing tactics — a bag of 22 buttons which would be tipped onto a table and then moved into the positions required.

He was semi-retired when Peru's federation, having been turned down by Didi and Mario Zagallo, approached him in 1981 to become national team manager.

Tim, not really wanting the job, was lured to Lima by a contract which gave him \$120,000 for the three months covering the World Cup qualifying rounds.

Within those three months, he transformed a disorganized, methodless set of individuals into a skilled and efficient unit which created a major surprise by eliminating the highly regarded Uruguay.

Tim's contract was extended to the World Cup finals.

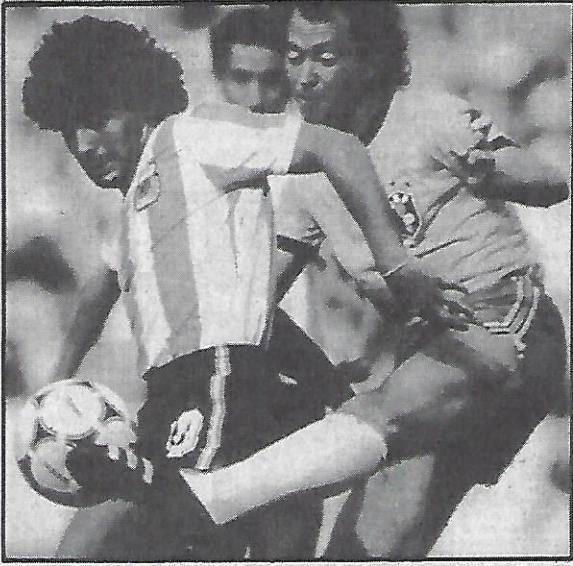
In Spain, Peru drew with Italy and Cameroon before collapsing 1-5 against Poland.

It was a disappointing swan-song for the tournament's old coach.

After the Mundial, Tim turned down a \$360,000-a-year post in Saudi Arabia and the position of Portugal's national team manager because he preferred to spend more time with his grand daughters in Brazil.

Yet, the elderly chain smoker did not remain out of harness long, only last year was appointed coach of International Limeira, a minor club in São Paulo.

He died after a prolonged stomach illness.



The great Diego Maradona (left) — in action for Argentina against Brazilian star Falcao. They'll clash in the Italian First Division this coming season.

Sivori, Krol, Altafini and now Maradona

been adamant he would not release his prime asset.

Maradona persisted, though. Unsettled by the arrival of the Englishman Venables was the final straw to the Argentinian whose cousin had been killed during the Falklands War.

The fact the transaction was completed merely minutes before the Italian federation's two-year ban on foreign imports commenced, seemed to only a miracle would bring Maradona to Italy for new Barcelona coach Terry Venables had

the more sombre gave that at local shires devoted to St Januarius, the city's patron saint.

Indeed, a week earlier, it seemed that only a miracle would bring Maradona to Italy for new Barcelona coach Terry Venables had

the more sombre gave that at local shires devoted to St Januarius, the city's patron saint.

Even in bleak seasons, average crowds at the Stadio San Paolo exceed 55,000. In 1976, they became the first club to sell more than 70,000 season tickets.

Gate receipts always keep Naples' coffers healthy and

they have never been afraid to spend heavily on foreign talent.

Hasse Jepsen (Sweden), Vinicio (Brazil), Cane (Brazil), Altafini (Brazil), Omar Sivori (Argentina), Rudi Krol (Holland) and Ramon Diaz (Argentina) are the better known of Maradona's predecessors to wear the sky blue jersey.

Yet, the most revered player in Naples' history is locally born forward of the 1930s, Attilio Salustro, who still holds the record of 103 goals.

There can be little doubt about the welcome extended to Maradona in the most Latin American of Europe's major cities.

When the possibility of the Argentinian superstar moving to Campania was first mooted, more than 2,000 spoilt their local election ballot papers by scrawling his name over them.

Should he inspire Naples to that elusive first Italian League title, Maradona will not only supersede Salustro in public esteem, but also make St Januarius redundant.

— PAUL MOON

Zientara, Galeczka, Kalinowski play top roles in Poland

By
MICK
MIKOŁAJCZYK

The 50th Polish championship season ended recently, with Lech Poznań, last year's champions, retaining its title on goal difference from Widzew Łódź, the former club of Zbigniew Boniek.



Edmund Zientara improved performance in the Spring.

Newcomer Motor Lublin finished a creditable 10th in its first season back in the top division.

Although it drew 13 of its 30 matches, its defence was the second best in the League largely thanks to the fine form of veteran international 'keeper Zygmunt Kalinowski whose performances for Polonia Sydney two years ago drew rave notices.

Relegated was Szombierki Bytom and founder member Cracovia Krakow, one of Poland's oldest clubs.

Taking their place on August 12 will be little-known Radomiak Radom and Lechia Gdańsk, one of Poland's glamour sides of years gone by which now returns to the first division after an absence of 21 years — and what a meteoric return to the top in 3 years.

SOCCER AROUND THE WORLD

Papadopoulos

— Greek sensation!

Daniel Papadopoulos (left) looks set for a sensational career judging from his form for Iraklis during the recent world series.

Papadopoulos already had played for Greece's Olympic and under-23 teams, and is almost certain to be promoted to the senior squad soon.

He signed for Iraklis in December, 1981.

Papadopoulos scored against Australia B in the 1-1 draw at the MCG.

Always a firm believer in at-



Tim — \$120,000 for three months.

IN DEFENCE OF THE REFEREES

New coach

Peter Brine (pictured) has been appointed coach of Tasmanian State League club, Olympia-WPL, for the rest of the season, following the dismissal of Otto Klaus.

Brine played more than 100 first-team games with English club Middlesbrough, and also played professionally in the North American Soccer League.

He arrived in Tasmania, together with Eric Young, in 1980 and joined Juventus-Pioneer.

— WALTER PLESS

Ground defended

Western Suburbs secretary John Hatzimouratis hit out this week at criticism of the Victorian State League club's home ground, Ralph Reserve.

Ralph Reserve came in for criticism after Suburbs top-pledged title contender Polonia 2-2 two weeks ago.

"We played on Polonia's ground a few years ago and it was an absolute quagmire. The surface in that match cost our club promotion to State League."

"We've tried to pressure our council to improve the surface at Ralph Reserve. We admit the surface isn't the best but at least we've been trying to do things to improve it."

"Go to Croydon's ground on a rainy day and see what it's like. You can't play good soccer on it then. It's more like bulldozing than soccer. And Albion Rovers' ground is terrible."

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Job sought

Slav Milanovic, the new goalkeeper of Victorian club Ringwood United, is looking for a job. He has been in the U.S. on a scholarship, and has a job lined up there. He lives in Noble Park. Any firm which offers him employment in a field which suits his qualifications should ring Ken Kontra on 725 5392 (home) or 466 1333 (work).

In most cases it is unqualified criticism from people who

Soccer is made up of particular groups of people each of whom has an important role to play. They are: players, referees, coaches, administrators, spectators and of course the media.

Players are obviously the most important group as they determine the quality of the game in general which in turn can affect the input and performance of the other groups.

Certainly, it always has been my belief that the game is mainly about players.

Reading the Press and watching television recently, I'm beginning to wonder if the balance of importance to the game has shifted away from the players.

The media must, in my opinion, take the blame for this shift.

Administrators and referees have been attracting most of the headlines in recent times.

One cannot pick up a paper without reading about outbreaks by club presidents. They even make regular statements concerning team selection and the quality of players' performances.

However, this particular group is finding it more and more the victim of unscrupulous spectators, coaches who are looking for excuses, disappointed club administrators and misguided reporters.

But the second group, the referees, is finding itself more and more the victim of unscrupulous players, unruly spectators, coaches who are looking for excuses, disappointed club administrators and misguided reporters.

One couldn't pick up this newspaper in recent weeks without finding a headline concerning the men in black.

It really amazes me how reporters make very definite statements when they disagree with referees' decisions.

In most cases it is unqualified criticism from people who



TIM WHITE
Victorian coaching director

do not fully understand the rule governing the referees' decisions.

There has been criticism regarding the appointments of particular referees to games and again from people who do not fully understand the circumstances regarding the availability of referees.

Certainly, it always has been my belief that the game is mainly about players.

The dissection of referees' decisions on television is a disease which has been with us for some time. This practice reached a new dimension, or in my opinion a new low, recently when a player was interviewed regarding the merits of the referee while the game was still in progress!

His comments may have sounded smart to some people but I can assure you that if he participated in such an interview in similar circumstances again, he would be taken against him by the relevant governing body for bringing the game into disrepute.

He still was under the jurisdiction of the referee when he made his statements. The game was in progress and had the referee heard the player's comments he could have reported the player again, even though the ref already had sent him off.

This type of sensationalism is not necessary and detracts from important things in the game.

Maybe it's a lack of understanding of the technicalities of the game which prevents a number of our media people from reporting on the quality of the game.

It's very easy to crucify a group of people who cannot defend themselves.

To my knowledge, no reporters have taken the trouble to contact him for official statements. If they did, they may find that much of their criticism is unjustified.

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They should forget their obsession with referees, as a number of them carry over bitterness about decisions from one game to another.

Players must concentrate on what they are on the field for and discipline themselves to accept decisions. It's time they realised that when the referee is "wrong," he is right!

It is players who are responsible for accumulating points for bookings, not referees.

Spectators should forget their obsession with referees, as a number of them carry over bitterness about decisions from one game to another.

The media would do well to spend more time on the important people in the game, the players.

They should forget their obsession with the men in black and report the game as it is played and concentrate on the people who really affect the competition.

Zagłębie Sosnowiec, whose team manager is Joe Galeczka, one of Poland's glamour sides of years gone by which now returns to the first division after an absence of 21 years — and what a meteoric return to the top in 3 years.

The groups I mentioned earlier should concentrate on the jobs relevant to them.

Administrators should concentrate on formulating policies which promote the game and their clubs, and allow the coaches more time and space to do their jobs.

Coaches should concentrate on getting the organisation right on the field and spend more time analysing their players' mistakes and not so much time looking for referees' mistakes so they can use them as an excuse for losing.

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Contro tanti infortunati e la sfortuna nulla puo fare 'il mago' Margaritis

Domenica scorsa la Juventus di Melbourne e' scesa in campo contro il Green Gully fra la speranza generale che i piccoli segni di ripresa che si erano notati nelle ultime due settimane con i pareggi contro West Adelaide e Newcastle avrebbero avuto la loro conferma.

Invece e' stato confermato il detto che "chi di speranza vive disperato muore". Dire puccio che la Juventus e' morta dopo la batosta di 1-4 subita contro il Green Gully sarebbe in tono con il detto; ma ci limitiamo invece a dire che la vecchia signora e' molto malata e che la cura e' difficile da indovinare.

Pero' bisogna anche accettare che la malattia era inevitabile e che e' inutile quindi disperarsi e dare in escandescenze. A costo di essere poli, dobbiamo ripetere ancora una volta che la stagione 1984 ha avuto due volti completamente diversi per la Juventus nel gironi di andata una buona dose di fortuna ed avversarie ancora alla ricerca della forma migliore le hanno permesso una partenza formidabile molto migliore di quanto chiesero si aspettava.

I successi iniziali, accoppiati ad un ottimo funzionamento del settore amministrativo del club, avevano messo le ali ai piedi una Juventus che stava bene. Il miracolo era alle spalle, il pubblico aspettava di settimana in settimana e tutti i giocatori giocavano ben al di sopra delle loro riconosciute capacita'.

Un Billy Roger che ormai sembrava essere arrivato al punto di appendere le scarpe al chiodo diventava tutto di colpo un giocatore di grande prestanza fisica ed indesuibile energia che in coppia con Joe Dowie formava una delle migliori difese centrali del campionato. Frank Geremia, il giovane centrocampista fattosi fra le

VIVA ITALIA!

with ROCKY DI ZIO



John Margaritis, dopo essere stato portato in trionfo dai tifosi bianconeri, sembra essere diventato il capro espiatorio per le invitabili sfortunate prestazioni della Juventus di Melbourne.

rivere e che sembrava condannato a confinare come eterna riserva, venne gettato nel masschile a causa dell'infortunio di Vince Cullen e si rivelava presto un solido terzino nonostante la sua statura minuscola; Richard Miranda, acquistato per una cifra irrisoria dal Box Hill e rivelatosi piuttosto deludente nelle posizioni non sue di stopper e terzino, diventava un poderoso centrocampista al punto da guadagnarsi i galloni titolare della nazionale B; Joe Sweeney, dopo un esordio deludente nelle partite di coppa, cominciava a centrare le porte avversarie con regolarita' fino a diventare brevemente il capocannoniere del campionato; Robert Cullen, da allora

pura, si rivelava un grande centrocampista d'attacco; Andrea Zinni esplodeva con tutta la sua esuberante gioventu' e velocita' da centrocampista. Hanno Hird si confermato uno dei più sicuri terzini sinistri della lega nonostante alcune riserve che esistevano sul suo conto a causa della mancanza di velocita'; Sean Keogh, il giovane portiere acquistato dalla squadra del Doveton, si imponeva come un ottimo guardiano e cominciava ad entrare nel giro dei "papabili" per la stagione e per la nazionale.

Anche il nuovo arrivato Campbell dava segni di essere un buon centrocampista che sarebbe cresciuto con il passare del tempo. C'era, come Ward, Swinscoe e Lloyd sembravano essere completamente superflui e certamente sarebbero andati a riscaldare la panchina una volta che Incantalo avesse scrollato di dosso l'infortunio, a prima vista non grave, riportato al ginocchio durante la coppa notturna.

Allo stesso tempo l'Hells attraversava una crisi profonda (e veniva sonoramente battuta alla Juventus) l'Heidelberg, il Doveton era in forte difficoltà e il Green Gully, il JUST proprio sembravano non ingrassare e la Juventus coglieva punti con irruenza facilita' o addirittura si poteva permettere il lusso di perdere e rimanere prima in classifica; perche', tanto tutte le dirette avversarie perdevano nel modo piu' inaspettato.

A quei tempi Margaritis veniva considerato il mago del pallone, il team manager Caruso un genio fino ad allora incompreso, tutti i giocatori campioni eccelsi da nazionale. Poi, piano piano la magia cambiata. Tutte le squadre si sono rinforzate oppure hanno

rivelato presto un solido terzino nonostante la sua statura minuscola; Richard Miranda, acquistato per una cifra irrisoria dal Box Hill e rivelatosi piuttosto deludente nelle posizioni non sue di stopper e terzino, diventava un poderoso centrocampista al punto da guadagnarsi i galloni titolare della nazionale B; Joe Sweeney, dopo un esordio deludente nelle partite di coppa, cominciava a centrare le porte avversarie con regolarita' fino a diventare brevemente il capocannoniere del campionato; Robert Cullen, da allora



Brendan Lakic, il brillante capocannoniere del Mitcham, la squadra italiana prima in classifica nella divisione cadetta del Victoria.

cominciato a rendere secondo le loro "grandi possibilità", mentre la Juventus continuava a perdere titolari in sequenza chiave (Sweeney, Miranda, Hird) e a perdere giu' nella lista degli infortunati non accennavano a rientrare (Vince Bannon, Fabio Incantalo, Paul Drinocky).

Quando arrivo' la crisi la Juventus era perci' senza sei dei suoi migliori titolari, considerando che Sweeney aveva continuato a giocare quando avrebbe dovuto invece andarsene in ospedale e che Dowie aveva imbrogliato due espulsioni ed altrettante giornate di squalifica.

Margaritis, che era stato portato in trionfo dai tifosi dopo la vittoria contro l'Heidelberg, si e' trovato perci' senza riserve e costretto a rimangiare la squadra settimana dopo settimana, potendo contare su elementi non eccelsi che avevano fatto miracoli quando i muri era alle stelle e la squadra poteva ancora contare su giocatori chiave.

Toto Sweeney la Juventus e' eimasta senza un attacco degno di tale nome; toto Miranda il centrocampista e' smarrito; tolto Hird e' crollata la difesa.

Potrebbe sembrare esagerato asserire che l'assenza di tre giocatori abbia potuto fare tanta differenza ad una squadra che conta ancora dei buoni giocatori fra cui, fra le sue, Zinni e' pur sempre un ottimo elemento senza dubbio, ma senza Sweeney al centro dell'area per raccogliere i suoi traversoni o per aprirgli varchi, il suo lavoro e' diventato poco redditizio; la mancanza di Miranda a centrocampo ha tagliato i rifornimenti a Zinni e a Cullen ed ha reso piu' agevole il compito del centrocampio avversario che si puo' premere di piu' sulla difesa bianconera la buona guida che Ward faceva sulla sinistra della difesa e le sue puntate in avanti la Juventus adesso se le sogna con il risultato che i difensori centrali ed il portiere debbono far fronte ad un continuo assedio che prima o poi li fa crollare.

E secondo certa gente i risultati negativi della squadra sarebbero colpa dell'allenatore Margaritis e del team manager Caruso!

I due non sono certamente ne' infallibili ne' completamente innocenti, ma acquisirli non riuscire a vincere con metà della squadra con cui solo parti (meta' numericamente, ma non piu' di un quarto come talento) e sicuramente troppo esagerato.

Se qualche appunto potesse esser mosso a Margaritis e Caruso, cio' risalirebbe all'inizio della stagione quando avevano acquistato degli elementi non completamente all'altezza della situazione e non si erano eccessivamente preoccupati di coprirsi le spalle con delle buone riserve. Ma anche qui qualsiasi critica deve essere mitigata dai mezzi finanziari di cui disponevano all'inizio della stagione, dalla carenza di buoni giocatori reperibili sul mercato e dal rendimento superiore alle aspettative di alcuni dei loro acquisti (Miranda e Dowie in modo particolare).

Anche per il fatto delle riserve la critiche non possono essere del tutto fondate perché se non ci fossero stati tanti infortuni la panchina bianconera sarebbe stata addirittura troppo affollata (Ward, Lloyd, Rogers, Cullen).

Martin, Geremia, Swinscoe avrebbero dovuto battagliare per avere un posto fisso in squadra.

Nelle ultime settimane il rientro del fuori forma Drinocky e il suo successivo infortunio e l'arrivo della scozzese Brown hanno costretto Margaritis a disfare il miglior reparto della squadra, la difesa centrale composta da Rogers e Dowie, con la speranza che questi due uomini avessero potuto risolvere i problemi di centrocampo. A parte il rivoluzionario ruolo della difesa del centrocampo, questo drastico cambiamento non ha potuto consolidarsi perch' la prima settimana Rogers e' dovuto indietreggiare a terzino al posto del malato Geremia e la settimana scorsa' dovuto tornare a centrocampista al posto dell'infortunato Drinocky.

Co ne sarebbe da far disparere chiunque, invece tutti sembrano stiam di accorgere a gettare le colpe su Margaritis e Caruso. Come al salto forte capi espiatori dell'allenatore a del team manager e' molto piu' semplice di cercare di capire i problemi reali della squadra ed esercitare una certa comprensione a pazienza quando le cose vanno male. Il fatto che lo stesso allenatore era stato portato in trionfo solo alcuni mesi fa per aver colto delle insperate vittorie ed aver portato al comando della classifica una squadra che era partita con il compito principale di salvarsi nella sua prima stagione in Lega Nazionale!

Le cose vanno male perch' non potrebbero andare molto meglio di come la sfortuna e gli infortuni hanno voluto. Tog-



Luciano Fabrizio of Brisbane City surges away with the ball as Heidelberg-Alexander left back Joe Angele falls in a desperate attempt to stop him in their clash at Spencer Park in Brisbane. Heidelberg's captain Theo Selemidis is behind Angele. Picture by CARLOS PICASSO.

liere la fiducia e la comprensione alle persone che già hanno un compito quasi impossibile peggiorerebbe ancora di piu' la situazione.

I trasferimenti sono ormai chiusi, quindi e' inutile pensare ad altri acquisti; giocatori giu' di corda e con poca classe non possono essere tramutati in campioni; giovanissime speranze non possono essere cacciate con la responsabilita' di risollevare una

squadra che fa acqua da tutte le parti.

Ma con un po' di calma ed un po' di fiducia in piu' anche la presente critica situazione potrebbe migliorare al punto da permettere alla Juventus di finire il campionato in posizione onorevole e con il rispetto che si meriterebbe di essere di essere un club fatto di gente che sa tenere i nervi a posto negli inevitabili periodi difficili.

LE DUE AZZURRE AL COMANDO DELLA LEGA STATALE

Pur concedendo un punto al St Albans il Fawkner e' rimasto in cima alla classifica della Lega Statale del Victoria; allo stesso tempo gli altri Azzurri di Morwell hanno battuto in Doveton fuori casa e si sono affacciati ai cugini di Jukes Road con lo stesso punteggio (46), dietro le due squadre italiane, ad una lunghezza, la coppia Polonia e Box Hill.

Anche nel campionato statale del NSW una squadra italiana e' tornata a guidare la classifica, l'Inter Monaro battendo il Yugal ha approfittato della sconfitta del Rockdale ed ha ripreso il comando.

IL THOMASTOWN LANCIA-TISSIONO

Nella prima divisione della lega metropolitana il Thomas town ha finalmente vinto il braccio di ferro con Springvale City. L'Inter Monaro di Wilson Park ha poi vinto il centro Springvale non ha retto al loro giro della battaglia a due in cima alla classifica ed ha perso di misura con il North Dandenong. I rossoneri sono così in vetta alla classifica con due punti di distacco dalla sua ex pomeriggia di prima poltrona e con ben cinque punti di vantaggio dalla terza classificata.

Bella affermazione della Triestina sul Moorabbin City per 4-1 a riconferma della ritrovata forma dei muli alabardati. Ancora piu' brillante la vittoria del Buleen nella stessa divisione, i ragazzi veneti hanno battuto la capolista Hamlyn Rangers per 4-2 ed hanno cosi' fatto un ennesimo favore alla Triestina che cosi' ha potuto recuperare due punti sulla squadra battagliata.

L'East Brunswick ha riportato un'altra convincente vittoria con il secco 3-0 imparato all'Hawthorn.

Nella terza divisione della Lega Provinciale il Dallas McLeod e' riuscito ad impattare con la diretta avversaria del North Sunshine e si trova ancora in cima alla classifica a pari punti con il Seaford.

Grande sorpresa nella quarta divisione con il derby italiano fra la capolista West-all e il fanalino di coda Carrum finito in parita', senza che nessuna delle due abbia minimamente cambiato le loro pros-

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FORZA JUVE!



Ricky Mezzodra, il giovane portiere del Dallas McLeod, proveniente dalla Juventus, e' da considerarsi uno degli artefici della su ccessa della squadra della Federazione Lucana allentata dall'altro ex bianconero Fausto Tarquino. La Squadra si trova in vetta alla classifica della terza divisione della Lega Provinciale dopo 19 partite e Ricky Mezzodra ha concesso solo 16 reti, rivelandosi uno dei



It's The BIG Challenge

This Weekend —

July 28-29



Alan Davidson
South Melb.

South Melbourne v Sydney City
Middle Park Sunday 3 pm

Previous NSL Results
South Melbourne 3 wins
Sydney City 7 wins
5 draws

Heidelberg v Leichhardt Olympic Village Sunday
3 pm

Previous NSL Results
Heidelberg 7 wins
Leichhardt 1 win
2 draws



Stuart Stevenson
Heidelberg



Tony Curcio
Melb Croatia

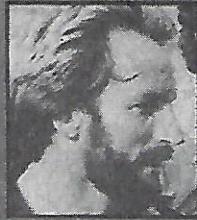
Melbourne Croatia v Sydney Olympic
Olympic Park No 1 Sunday
3 pm.

Previous NSL Result
Melbourne Croatia 1 win

Marconi v Juventus

Double-header

Marconi Stadium Sunday
3 pm



Billy Rogers
Juventus



Frank Pimblett
Brisbane City

Brisbane City v Melita Eagles

Spencer Park Sunday
3 pm

Previous NSL Results
Melita Eagles 1 win

Preston v Penrith City
Connor Reserve Sunday
3 pm

No previous NSL result



Graham Heys
Preston



John Ogden
Brisb Lions

Blacktown City v Brisbane Lions

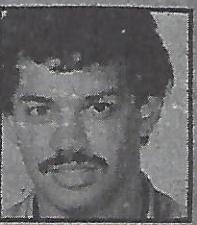
Gabbie Stadium Sunday
3 pm

Previous NSL Results
Blacktown City 2 wins
Brisbane Lions 1 win
2 draws

Canberra Arrows v Footscray

Bruce Stadium Sunday
3 pm

Previous NSL Results
Canberra 5 wins
Footscray 5 wins
4 draws



Paul Ontong
Canberra



Robbie Slater
St. George

West Adelaide v St. George
Hindmarsh Stadium
Sunday 3 pm

Previous NSL Results
West Adelaide 3 wins
St. George 6 wins
3 draws

Sydney Croatia v Adelaide City

Double-header
Marconi Stadium Sunday
1 pm

No Previous NSL results



Ken Boden
Sydney Croatia



Dean Milosevic
Newcastle

Newcastle Rosebud v Green Gully

Adamstown Oval
Saturday 2.30

Previous NSL Result
Newcastle 1 win

Sunshine George Cross v Wollongong

Chaplin Reserve Sunday
3 pm

No previous NSL result



Ossie Latif
Sunshine G.C.